The University of Alberta

A History of Tennis
at the University of Alberta

by

Robert J. Bell ©

A thesis submitted to the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the Degree of Master of Education.

Department of Secondary Education

Edmonton, Alberta
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date Sept 28, 1994

A History of Tennis at the University of Alberta

ABSTRACT

Tennis has been a part of the activities on campus since the early days of the University of Alberta. This history looks at tennis at the University in three different areas -facilities, education and play. To provide background information and for comparison purposes, histories of international tennis and Canadian tennis are included in the appendices.

At the University of Alberta, tennis first appeared in 1912 and thrived on the growing campus. As the game that was designed for the upper class spread to the larger middle class, it increased in popularity. Tennis waned but did not disappear during World War I. It quickly recovered during the 1920s, the Golden Age of Sports, when it was one of the important sports activities at the University. Although tennis remained popular during the 1930s, it began to lose some importance on campus. With classes beginning in October, it was very difficult to complete the recreational and competitive events each fall. Many of the intercollegiate players did most of their training and playing at other local clubs because the team had a very short season which limited its role on campus. After World War II, tennis did not regain its position as an important competitive sport but did continue at the recreational level. It also made its first appearance in the university curriculum. Part of the decline in play can be attributed to a loss of facilities on campus which has continued to present times. During the late 1960s and early 1970s, tennis lost its intercollegiate teams and was even dropped from the Physical Education curriculum for a few years. It was kept alive through informal groups of enthusiasts and recreational play on campus. In 1983, the focus shifted off

campus to a new facility that was constructed for the World University Games. While facilities have not changed recently, tennis activity courses have become more popular and there is renewed activity in the competitive area.

A History of Tennis at the University of Alberta

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A History of Tennis at the University of Alberta

Chapter 1

Introduction

A History of Tennis At the University of Alberta

INTRODUCTION

Origins of the Topic

My interest in tennis began in Grade 10 when I was spending a year in Eugene, Oregon. At about the same time that I tried to learn to play tennis, I started to look at sports rationally. I was interested in the different attributes required to play each sport, the desirable qualities that could be gained from each, and the carry-over value that it had. I decided not to continue to play some of the sports that I had been involved in for several years, especially the contact types. Tennis seemed to be a reasonable alternative. I enjoyed the exercise, the people, the strategy, the skills, and the challenge. I became an avid player.

When I returned to Edmonton, however, I did not know anyone else who played. I spent most of one season serving balls from one end of the court to the other, then picking them up and serving them back. The club where I played did not have any competitors my age, but they did hire a tennis professional who started developing a junior program. When he offered to let me assist, I was introduced to coaching.

My interest in coaching and playing continued throughout university. Although I took Education at the University of Alberta, my preference was to teach on a tennis court rather than in a classroom. After graduation, I taught in the public school system for a couple of years before I was offered full time employment in tennis. I welcomed the opportunity and have been deeply involved in tennis ever since.

Part of my involvement has included working at various tasks for the tennis associations. Among the roles that I've experienced have been club representative, executive member, elite team coach, Davis Cup scout, and coaching course conductor. I developed a close relationship with the administrations of the provincial association (Tennis Alberta) and the national association (Tennis Canada). They often turned to me for opinions or answers on topics concerning tennis in Edmonton or Alberta. My inability to answer the questions to my own satisfaction led to my research topic.

When programs which originated in Eastern Canada did not fit well into Alberta, Tennis Canada asked me why. When differences arose between programs in Edmonton and Calgary, Tennis Alberta asked me why. I was able to give them answers, but the responses were only based on what I believed. I began searching for something more concrete than conjecture and found that very little had been written about the background of tennis in Alberta or in Edmonton. I decided that a history of tennis in Alberta would make a good topic for a thesis and would make a valuable contribution to the tennis community. However, to make the thesis more manageable, I decide to confine my travel and study to the local area and concentrate on a history of tennis in Edmonton.

For one of my University classes, I started research on the Edmonton tennis history by preparing a report on competitive tennis at the University of Alberta. Although I was warned that I may not find enough material for a paper, I soon realized that there was plenty of information but that it had never been collected or organized. I was enthused by the possibility of studying a topic that had some relevance to my current situation, and I knew that if I expanded the scope of the topic slightly, I would have more than enough information for a thesis.

The thesis topic finally selected was A History of Tennis at the University of Alberta.

Purpose of the Study

The primary purpose of this thesis is to collect and organize a body of information dealing with the past events in the sport of tennis at the University. Although the information deals with the past, it is intended to be used to provide a basis for a better understanding of our current circumstances at the University, and in the local and provincial tennis communities. Possibly, this thesis can even help us make better decisions about the future of tennis in our areas.

Importance of the Study

Twenty-five years ago, as a student, I was involved with tennis at the University of Alberta as a serious recreational participant. Currently, I am involved with tennis at the University as an employee, an administrative/professional officer in the Faculty of Physical Education and Recreation. Very few people can claim to have viewed tennis at the University from such different perspectives and over such a long span of time. Yet when I began to research, I realized that even with my enthusiasm for tennis and my varied involvement in the University tennis community, I was unaware of much of the background of the sport at the University of Alberta. I also recognized that tennis at the University of Alberta had a unique history that was worth recording.

As far as I could determine, no one has ever done a study of tennis at any Canadian university. There has actually been very little done on tennis history in Canada. There certainly has never been a thorough study of tennis at the University of Alberta. This thesis, therefore, is breaking new ground in this area.

As a collection of information about one individual competitive sport, the thesis can be seen as a sport history, adding to the understanding of athletics at the University. However, since tennis was one of the dominant campus recreations from the earliest days of the University, this thesis also provides a social history of a major activity on campus, a small piece of the student lifestyle. Of course, facilities were required for both recreational and competitive tennis and their history provides a glimpse of the physical growth of the University. This study also provides a look at the growth of Physical Education from the perspective of one sport. The various perspectives help to give this work a broader value than just a study of a single minor sport.

Additional information was required to satisfactorily answer queries from the national and provincial tennis associations. Although the information in this thesis is predominantly about the University of Alberta, its value goes beyond that. University of Alberta tennis is part of the local Edmonton tennis community, which is part of the provincial Alberta tennis community. Although its impact and significance for national and international tennis is small, the University is still a part of those populations as well.

The thesis, therefore, can play a role in answering the kinds of questions that led me to the research in the first place. Even if the information does not produce the answers directly, it can be used as a source of comparison, which may contribute to a better understanding. Local enthusiasts will be able to determine the ways in which the University tennis was the same as, or different from, other local tennis institutions. Knowledge of the tennis community will help provide explanations about the need for different programs in different localities. Similarities and differences with other organizations in the province will help to answer some of the questions from Tennis Alberta. Although the chosen study is somewhat narrower than my original topic, the thesis can still provide some answers to the questions coming from the national association as well. The national and international histories that are included in the appendix can provide a good foundation for comparisons of trends at any level.

The work that I did also provides me with an understanding of my own position at the University. It will be of value to me as I continue to manage the Tennis Centre and can be an important document for any one who follows in my role.

All of the facts were not found and all of the questions will not be answered. I encountered more questions with each new area of research I opened. This thesis, therefore, can also be used as a starting point for further research. There are many more histories in the city, the province, and the tennis organizations that would make interesting studies. The information within this thesis could also start inquiries into the fields of sociology, facilities, management, Physical Education, and different sports in Athletics.

The purpose of the thesis, therefore, was to collect and organize information about the history of tennis at the University of Alberta. The information collected in this thesis is important for its originality, its unique examination of a sport or a fragment of social history, and its ability to provide background knowledge to help us deal with our current problems. Its greatest value, however, may be the impact it can have on tennis in the future.

Delimitations of the Study

The study begins with the first evidence of tennis at the University of Alberta and continues until the beginning of 1994 when final preparations for thesis submissions to Graduate Studies had to be made.

The original research is confined to the University of Alberta. The other information, on the history of tennis in Canada and internationally, was included to provide a background for comparison purposes. Most of that information was collected from previously published books.

Limitations of the Study

The availability of information, the cooperation of individuals, the reliability of sources, and time were limitations on this study.

With tennis being of limited importance to an academic institution, very few records that dealt with the sport were kept. Some of what was written down has since been lost or destroyed. With the passage of time, this sometimes happens as the staff changes or when files are cleaned out. Sometimes the loss also happens unintentionally. Some valuable information, such as the Planning and Development plans, was destroyed in a flood at the storage site after World War II. Consequently, the completeness of this thesis was limited by the availability of information.

During the collection of the information, some individuals were reluctant to allow access to records. While there was no lack of willingness on the part of the members of the tennis community to share information, some of the members of the University staff were too busy or not interested, and did not make much effort to assist. Lack of cooperation, therefore, hindered the completeness and accuracy of the study.

I wanted the information in my thesis to be as factual and unbiased as I could make it. As much as possible, I intended to base the research on written records because they would be the most accurate sources. However, problems were encountered. Much of the early information came from the yearbook, Evergreen and Gold, and the newspaper, The

Gateway. They contained information on the Tennis Club and the Tennis Team, and the activities of both. The write-ups, however, were sometimes blatantly biased. Frequently, they sounded as though a member of the Club had composed the story and, of course, no reasonable member of the Club would try to present their organization in a harmful way. Almost every year, the sources reported a successful season, with the standard of play "improved to a level never before seen at the University". The only problem that was ever acknowledged was the weather which cut the season short. (Because this was beyond human control, it was safe to admit.) With most of the information coming from the same sources - the same biased sources - the chances of sketching a completely factual and accurate picture of tennis on campus is reduced. However, for the early tennis story that was almost all that was available.

With the more recent history, I did not have to rely on the written records which had proved to be less than reliable. I was able to find many individuals that had lived the history and were willing to share it with me. However, I discovered that the memories of individuals were even less reliable than the written records. Not only were the "facts" subject to different interpretation, but some of the major recollections contradicted each other. Details were often lost completely. Sometimes an individual contradicted himself or herself within the space of a few minutes of conversation. While this might be expected from the senior players attempting to recall stories from fifty years ago, it was also common with younger individuals relating "facts" from history that was only a decade or two old. Therefore, whenever possible, I had to seek corroboration from one or more other witnesses and was unable to use many of the human resources to give definitive answers. Although the individuals may not always have been reliable, I found them to be an exciting addition to my knowledge base and to the thesis. They contributed many of the details that are not normally preserved in daily records for historians to uncover later. Although the biased articles and less than perfect memories gave a human touch to the cold, hard "facts", they also combined to limit the accuracy of the details that were used in the thesis.

Even with all the investigating I did, I was unable to find all the answers that I wanted to find. I spent disproportionate amounts of time looking for a few small details. As deadlines approached, I was still expanding my network of sources in the tennis community, searching for the missing trivia. Therefore, the Graduate Studies time restrictions placed upon the study were one of the factors that limited the completeness of this thesis. Probably, as the information circulates around the tennis community over the next few years, interested individuals will add more details to the story.

Methodology

For the purposes of providing a basis for comparison, the history of international tennis and the history of Canadian tennis were completed first. The majority of this information was compiled from published books that can be borrowed from libraries or purchased in stores. Other sources, such as Tennis Canada yearbooks and special event information, came from the files at the Tennis Centre and the home of the author.

Most of the factual groundwork for the early history of tennis at the University of Alberta came from the University Archives. Evergreen and Gold yearbooks and Gateway newspapers provided most of the information, but these were supported by archive files of the University presidents, Board of Governor Reports, and historical books on the

University. Several theses from the Faculty of Physical Education also provided background.

Because the Archives can not release files from within the past twenty-five years, the more recent factual information could not be obtained from their files. However, the yearbooks, newspapers, and general histories could still be used. In addition, the past twenty-five years is within living memory. Therefore, I was able to corroborate and supplement much of the history with personal interviews. I started with people I knew or worked with. Those individuals often were able to direct me to other sources. Occasionally, someone from the tennis community would even approach me to offer unsolicited information because they had heard that I was working on a local tennis history.

For most personal interviews, I prepared a written list of questions and made use of a tape recorder. Initially the question list was followed closely, but as I became more comfortable with the format, I allowed the interviewee to provide the answers in his or her own way and at his/her own pace. I now possess several hours of fascinating audiotapes detailing local tennis history. Some of the interviews were impromptu and, therefore, could not be tape recorded. Many were conducted over the phone and had to be recorded in handwritten note form. Whenever possible, the contents of the interview notes were confirmed before the interview was concluded.

Organization of the topic

The topic of tennis at the University of Alberta was broken into smaller units of 1. Facilities, 2. Education, and 3. Play. In each area, tennis was traced from its earliest appearances to the present times. To provide background, brief histories of international and Canadian tennis were prepared and are included as Appendices A & B.

A History of Tennis at the University of Alberta

Chapter 2

Facilities

A History of Tennis at the University of Alberta

FACILITIES

Early Recreation Facilities

The University of Alberta started operations in 1908 but did not even have a building of its own until the completion of Athabasca Hall in 1911. The campus was carved out of a rolling wooded area quite remote from "civilization" in Strathcona and Edmonton.

Reg Lister, in his My Forty- Five Years on Campus, reports that "Before 1914, the campus was just a big field and not at all level. I have often seen deer run across the campus in the early days...(p. 14)". When constructed, Athabasca Hall ...

> stood by itself, surrounded by bush. Where the Arts Building now stands, were an abandoned basement excavated in 1908, and two old shacks. There were no sidewalks or roads. The trails to Athabasca came around the sloughs or across the field from 112th Street. There were no trucks or cars in those days and everything had to be hauled by horse and wagon... bricks, stone, lumber, furniture, equipment. It was quite a job and often wagons would get stuck in the mud up to the axles."(p. 10)

The site was so remote that some early Edmonton tradesmen and businessmen even hesitated to do business with the University because the deliveries were so long and troublesome. (Lister, p. 10)

The obvious priorities for a new and secluded academic institution would be to have classrooms, accommodations, and some administration space. However, there was also an early concern for recreation facilities. Fields for games and a shooting range were included in the original plans and incorporated as soon as possible in the development of the campus. Lister mentions that Professor Edwards started the football grid in 1913, and that there was an open air shooting range for military training. A map in the 1912 Gateway Graduation Number shows the plans for an Athletic Grounds, a Gymnasium, and playing fields.

When it was constructed in 1913, the Gymnasium was not located on the Athletic Grounds but behind Athabasca Residence. In the University Buildings section of an early University Calendar, the Gymnasium is described:

> The necessity of providing facilities for gymnastic exercise in the University has been met for the present by a gymnasium having a floor space of about 3,400 square feet, and an equipment of high bars, mats, dumb-bells, wands, etc., for free gymnastics, besides the requisite accessories of dressing-rooms and shower baths. A basement provides accommodation for boxing and wrestling. A gallery with a seating capacity of about 200, runs the full length of the gymnasium. (1914-15 University Calendar, p. 25)

The Board of Governor's Report of 1914 reports that the Gymnasium that was opened in the back of Athabasca Hall in the fall of 1913 was "keenly appreciated by the student body" and that the main athletic fields were graded and seeded. "The University is to be congratulated on having this excellent accommodation for physical culture at this early stage of its career." (p. 2).

Work on the campus grounds began in earnest that year. Lister recalled that "in 1914, the levelling began, using man and mule power, ..."(p. 14).

Earliest Tennis Facilities

Although tennis was neither specifically shown on the early maps nor referred to in the plans, it was among the first activities that appeared on campus. The University did not officially build courts until 1914, but tennis was played prior to this.

Lister mentions that at the first Summer School in 1912 (at which he did not think there were any university-level courses offered), there were "plenty of social activities as well as tennis, baseball, swimming, and golf." (p. 48). (According to Special Sessions and the Archives, the first official Summer School did not take place until 1913.)

The 1913 Gateway Vol.IV No.1 p.20 contained an article on tennis.

> Tennis
> A Tennis Tournament is underway on the campus this month, and despite the scarcity of courts, the sport is well patronized by the students. The Co-eds have absorbed some inspiration from the new movement in Varsity athletics and aspire to enter collegiate honours. A challenge has been despatched to the Saskatchewan ladies, and a favourable reply is anticipated. G.R.S.

A possible explanation for tennis courts existing but not being noted on the early maps or in the early University records was that the University did not officially provide them. In the University of Alberta Archives Photo File (#69-10-1), there is a picture of the future sight of the Arts building, looking towards the partially completed High Level Bridge. (It was completed for street car traffic in 1913.) The picture can also be seen in John Macdonald's The History of the University of Alberta 1908-1958 and the Friday, October 19, 1973, Gateway which identifies it as being taken in 1912. In the foreground of the picture is a man playing tennis on a level, unfenced piece of ground. It is possible that the students and staff took matters into their own hands before the University was able to provide tennis facilities for them.

Assiniboia and Pembina Courts

Possibly because of the demand for the new sport of tennis, and possibly in conjunction with the land levelling project, University tennis officially appeared in 1914 when four tennis courts were built behind Assiniboia Hall.

On May 27, 1919, the Board of Governors acted on a recommendation of the Committee of Physical Education and approved the construction of four more behind Pembina Hall. However, the June minutes report that the Board favoured a proposal to add four grass courts on the southeast part of the campus. By the time of the August meeting, their minds had changed again. The Chairman reported that the courts would be constructed west of Pembina Hall since considerable amounts of work had to be done to prepare the grounds there anyway. The courts would be cinder, not grass. The Board of Governors approved $1,250 for the construction of the courts. With four courts added to the original four only five years later, the University boasted a total of eight courts for just over six hundred students. The early appearance and large number of courts are indications of the popularity of tennis at the time.

Professor Emeritus Al Ryan, a former Provost, Vice President for Student Affairs, and Executive Assistant to the President commented on the numerous courts in the early days.

> The tennis courts were part of the civilizing notion of the early University education. They wanted the gracious side of life. Hence the architecture on the early buildings and the plentiful tennis courts. It was a gentleman's and ladies' game. (1993)

The early courts were made of natural, readily available materials - clay and shale or cinder. It was inexpensive to use but did require some knowledgable individual to construct and maintain the courts. In 1920, D.A. MacRae, the Director of Physical Education, wrote a letter to Dr. Tory, the President of the University, explaining that the U of A should do its best to match an Edmonton city salary offer to a University employee, Mr. Jack Buchanan, because "He is expert in the construction and care of athletic fields, tennis courts and sports grounds in general." (U of A Archives, Tory File).

Though tennis courts are relatively inexpensive to construct and maintain, they are also easy to remove. The open spaces and level ground make courts prime locations for development.

Although the exact date could not be determined, the courts behind Assiniboia were the first to be eliminated. On the cover of A Retrospect 1908 - 1929, there is a drawn three dimensional map of the campus showing tennis courts behind Assiniboia and Pembina. Some of the veteran players who were contacted during the research of this project remembered playing on the courts in the 1930s (eg. H. Richard, B. McAvoy). But on a 1946 campus map a small Drafting building can be seen behind Assiniboia (U of A Calendars). (The building was later listed as Sociology and Physiotherapy.) In his campus memoirs, Reg Lister (p. 50) recalled that the site became a parking lot (prior to the construction of any buildings.)

Rudy Jakubec (1993), Records Supervisor of Planning and Development, maintains that the exact date can not be determined from University records because the storage site in the previous Planning and Development headquarters was flooded in 1946, destroying most of the maps and plans. However, he stated that the building I was referring to (and that he remembered as the Sociology Lab) was constructed in World War II. " It was a quonset hut type. [It wasn't.] I would only be guessing but that would be a logical time for them [tennis courts] to have been taken out. That building has since been removed for the Nuclear Research lab."

Some of the people who played tennis in the 1940s do not remember any courts behind Assiniboia at all. Mo Lyons (1994) recalled only "the ones behind the south residence. But I avoided playing there if I could. The courts were in lousy shape." Further indication that the courts may have been removed at that time is that, according to the Yearbook (Evergreen and Gold, 1945) records, the 1944 campus tournament was played at the Garneau courts, a move that might have been necessitated if the Assiniboia courts were not available for play on campus.

Because the original building was small and because the new lab is not directly on the original court site, it is possible that not all four courts were in fact removed at one time. One or two of the courts may have survived until much later. None of the photos in archives could settle the question. Individuals who were contacted had differing memories.

Dr. Maury Van Vliet (1994), who came to the U of A in 1945 and later became the first Dean of Physical Education, felt that there was a court behind Assiniboia that "lasted five more years or so". Then, as though to emphasize how far in the past the memory was, he added that maybe there was another court behind Pembina. [There were four.]

The second dean of the Faculty of Physical Education, Dr. McLachlin (1994), recalled the courts being there when he came on staff in 1948. "There were two, two for sure, when I came on" but he couldn't say when they were removed. When informed that a building showed up on the campus maps after World War II, Dr. McLachlin reaffirmed that he thought "that there would be two courts left."

Dr. Gerry Glassford, the third Dean of the Faculty of Physical Education and Recreation, also felt that the courts may have survived well past World War II. He was a student in 1963 and stayed in Assiniboia.

> Don't hold me to it with precision. My recollection is that there were a couple of courts back there. That was before they built those engineering buildings and so forth. The four courts - the newer courts - were down toward where the Agriculture building is now. (1994)

Although Al Ryan (1993), former Provost, Vice President for Student Affairs and Executive Assistant to the President, could not remember the date of removal, he believed it occurred when the "centre of gravity of Physical Education shifted away from the residences to the newer facilities". (The Physical Education building opened in 1960.)

Dr. Allan Affleck (1994), who started at the U of A in 1949 as a student and came onto the Physical Education staff in 1951, was quite sure that there were two courts behind Assiniboia.

Even while both sets of courts still existed, the main focus of tennis on campus shifted to the set of four courts behind Pembina Hall. The Pembina courts were built better and maintained better. (eg. Lister, p. 50-51) Most of the tennis classes, club and intramural tournaments, inter-collegiate competitions, and recreational play happened on these courts.

Bessie McAvoy (1993) remembered playing on the Pembina courts between about 1935 and 1945.

> I was there for more than a decade. I was at Summer School for many years. We always played behind Pembina. We could change our clothes there. There was no building or clubhouse. You just had to know someone in the residence.
>
> I remember a Mr. Webster looked after the courts, - a fine elderly man.

Dr. Harold (Hal) Richard (1990) also played on the Pembina courts during that era, but recalled the other set of courts as well.

> Yes, I was there til about '37, and was at Summer School from about 1930 to '35. I played at the University but didn't play on any tennis teams. I was already playing football and basketball. The courts we usually played on were behind Pembina residence. They were red shale then. I remember some other courts down behind Athabasca or Assiniboia but we didn't play there as much. The other courts [Pembina] were better.

The Pembina clay/shale courts were kept in playing condition until they were removed. In 1950, the courts were changed to hard surface so that they could handle more use. Frank Oliver (1993) recalled the change.

> In 1950, I think it was 1950, that was the only year that I was at university so that should be accurate - the courts were resurfaced with black asphalt to become hard courts. All the other courts in the city were clay so we weren't used to the hard surface. This [hard surface] eliminates the need for daily and hourly maintenance. (Oliver, 1993)

The courts were later topped with a coloured paint surface to improve the appearance and playing qualities. Many of the Edmonton's senior tennis players, such as John Lind, Darryl Jahma, and Bill Macdonald, remember the courts that way.

> These were the main courts. They were the ones that I started hacking around on. There was parking down below, on the west side. On the other side was a grassy slope where you could wait and watch.
>
> Everyone used to play there. The courts were usually busy, but if you wanted to wait you could always get on. I remember the noon hour hits, especially. The staff and secretaries used to come out onto the hillside to watch and tan. So for us young twenty year old students who thought we were getting pretty good at the game, there was extra incentive to play well. (Lind, 1993)

> It was great there. All they needed was some kind of clubhouse. I would still be playing there, except the courts are gone now. (Jahma, 1994)

> That was a good place. I used to get invited there. You had to wait for a court but you always got on. Everyone took their turn. Lots of young people. A good place. (Macdonald, 1994)

Dr. Herb McLachlin (1993) recalled the desire for more courts on campus. "We had visions of putting new courts on top of our own gymnasium in 1959." They also considered putting them on top of a car park, which is where four courts ultimately ended up.

The Pembina courts were eventually removed for the construction of the Agriculture - Forestry Building opened in 1980. According to Al Ryan (1993) "Those courts were taken away because they were flat land. The Agriculture building should have been on the river valley but there wasn't enough stable land so they put it where they found some open space."

Although Bruce Letcher (1993) of the University Grounds Department recalled "taking the trees out on about 1972 and it was just a couple of years after that when the courts came out.", it was actually several years before the courts were removed. Many of the university competitive players of that era remember playing frequently on the courts through the mid-seventies (eg. Macdonald, Sinclair, Negi). Although an exact date could not be determined, Bob Sinclair (1993) thought the year of removal was probably 1977 or 1978. "I was teaching at Garneau then, and I remember that it was a big shock that the Students Union courts were being taken out." Bill Macdonald came from Saskatchewan in November 1976 and recalls training for tournaments on the Student's Union Building courts for at least two summers. Yagesh Bhambani began his Masters in the fall of 1978 and helped a PHD student named Rob Day teach a tennis class on the Students Union courts. The earliest possible date of removal, therefore, would be the winter of 1978, but, more likely, the courts would have been removed during the summer of 1979.

St. Stephen's College

One of the senior volunteer assistants at the Archives suggested that sometime in the past there had been some courts at St. Stephen's College. She thought she had seen a picture of them once, with courts surrounded by trees. Because the courts had not been mentioned anywhere else in the literature during the years of research for this section, the author believed that there was an excellent chance that the person was mistaken. However, the lead was followed up and led to the discovery of tennis courts at St. Stephen's College. There were no trees around them, but there were courts. The courts appear in an Archives photo (90-60-12) dated 1919-1921 from the R. B. Sandin Collection. Visible in the picture are two courts, with a third one possibly off the edge of the photo. The aerial photos in the Archives show that the same space existed through the 1920s, but they are not clear enough to tell if the area is lined (marked) for tennis.

Because there were no other references to these courts found in the University literature, it can be assumed that they did not play a major role in tennis on campus, and were probably reserved for students from St. Stephen's College. It does, however, help reflect upon the popularity of the sport of tennis during this period.

Later aerial photographs indicated the absence of tennis courts but were not helpful in providing a precise date of when the courts were removed. Because of their limited importance and the time pressures of thesis deadlines, the author did not follow the lead further.

Windsor Car Park Courts

In 1971-72, well before the removal of the courts behind Pembina, the Windsor Car Park was constructed. There is some confusion as to when tennis courts were added to the top of the building. Geoff Elliot (1993), former head of Support Services with Physical Education and now with the University of Calgary in that position, was on the committee that planned the facility, and he recalled that the courts were designed to be on the top of the Car Park from the beginning. This recollection is supported by the map in the 1972 Summer Session calendar and the Archives Map file, which has tennis courts labelled on the Car Park roof.

Some memories, however, recalled that there was a delay of a few years before the four tennis courts were built on top of the levels of parking. Some sources, such as Reg Savard (1993) of Physical Plant, believed that the courts moved from SUB to Windsor in 1979. Dr. Gerry Glassford (1993) also thought that the Windsor courts were related to the removal of the Students Union/Pembina courts. "When the courts behind the Student's Union were taken out toward the 1980s, they gave us courts on top of Windsor Car Park."

Hugh Hoyles (1993) remembered that intramurals were played on both sets of courts some years, so " they must have been there at the same time." This was confirmed by many of the players of that era, though few could actually provide any firm dates.

The most vivid memories came from Dr. Dave Cass (1993) who joined the University Botany staff in 1969 and was a keen competitive player. He recalled playing some Provincial Championship matches on the Car Park courts in July or August, 1972. The matches were overflow from the event being hosted at the Royal Glenora Club. He believed that some of the Royal Glenora's Victoria Day Tournament were also held there in May.

The earliest aerial photograph from the Archives that shows the tennis courts is marked 1970-72. (There is no explanation of why the picture date is not exact.) If it is assumed that the photo date is accurate, the memories of Elliot and Cass would seem to be more reliable than those who felt there was a delay between the Car Park construction and the court installation.

Although the four courts became the main courts on campus and were therefore well used, they were never completely satisfactory. John Lind (1993) recalled:

> I played there a lot. It was easier to get courts up top than behind SUB. The courts weren't as popular. I remember that they weren't always in the best shape either. They weren't as clean and the nets were often ripped. I think they may even have tried metal nets, but don't hold me to that. When you hit a ball over the wall it was a long way down - about five levels or something. I recall when you would be on the stairs going up or down, you would meet these other players going up or down to retrieve their balls.

Dr. Gerry Glassford (1993) felt that the Windsor Car Park courts

> never worked out very well, because of wind - wind was a problem up there, keeping them clear - the problem with clutter and so forth, and the ball would go over the top and it was a hell of a long way down to get the ball, so people found it really inconvenient. We gave them up. First of all, they were impossible for us to control. People came and stole our nets, cut them off and took them away. As I said people didn't like them because of the wind, and students didn't like them because they had to chase the ball all the time, instructors didn't like them because it was way off. There were many reasons so we ended up giving them up. Net losses were quite expensive. It cost us a bundle. They would just come in with cutters and ....

In 1987, in order to provide extra parking, the two southernmost courts were used for a temporary construction site, complete with a trailer office. Then, the following year, the remaining two courts were removed for parking purposes. (Savard, 1993).

Dr. Glassford (1993) recalled that an area was set aside on campus for replacement courts.

> When the Windsor courts were removed, we were promised additional courts on campus if we ever wanted them. That is in the minutes of the Board of Governors. There was an area over where the Student Health Services and Law Building were built that was designated for courts. We gave that space up so they could build some new buildings but in return for that

> we were promised that we would have other space on campus as the need arose. And then, of course, in 81-82 we started planning the Tennis Centre.

Dr. Garry Smith (1993) also remembered the option that never became a reality.

> We allowed them, I think - our faculty,- to take those ones out because we assumed they were putting some in East of HUB. And then that didn't happen, but maybe that was because the Tennis Centre was being built. I don't think we would have let them take the ones off the roof if there wasn't going to be some other ones somewhere else. Now, on campus, we only have two courts plus the four in the Butterdome, but they [Pavilion courts] are only open a couple of times in early mornings. The Lister ones are too small for classes. I would guess that they [Lister courts] were put in when they took the ones out at SUB. It was probably a concession that they had to make. Around 79-80.

Lister Hall Courts

The first stages of the Lister Hall complex of residences were completed for 1964-65. Two tennis courts were added to the north-west corner of the grounds for the University Games in 1983. Although official records to confirm the dates were not available, several people such as Dr. Bob Steadward, who was the Mayor of the Commonwealth Games Village and the Vice-President in charge of Accommodation for Universiade, remembered the courts being there for the University Games, but not for the Commonwealth Games (when the residence was used as the Athletes Village). Bruce Letcher, of the Grounds Department of Physical Plant, recalled that the Lister courts were installed a year before the Universiade Games. The courts are visible in the 1983-84 campus maps. (Archives, Map file)

Al Ryan (1993) gave the Housing and Food Services perspective of the Lister courts.

> This was really a Phys Ed project, not a Residence project. They wanted to put a whole stretch of them along the avenue. I disagreed with the Dean, Herb

> McLachlin, on this. The residences were the highest density student housing there was. I said that I didn't want that space taken away from the students. It was their front yard. So they just put in the two. It proved quite satisfactory.

Hugh Hoyles (1994) remembered a different reason for restricting the courts at Lister Hall.

> It was turned down because of the noise. They thought the popping of balls back and forth was going to be really disturbing. They had thought they would put in more, almost right up to the windows.

For Physical Education, the arrangement was not completely satisfactory. Dr. Gerry Glassford (1993) remembered some of the problems.

> We had trouble maintaining those courts, booking those courts. They were faculty property, our responsibility for many years. We ended up making a deal with the people over at Lister Residence and they ended up doing the booking. It was a real hassle. There was conflict over bookings. People would get in big arguments. And again there was the issue of maintenance.

The deal left Lister in charge of daily operation but maintenance was, and still is, done through the Faculty of Physical Education and the Grounds Department of Physical Plant. Ron Urness (1993), Arena Manager for Support Services, has his crews put up and take down the nets each season, but says

> Once the nets are up, there isn't a hell of a lot to do. The students kind of look after it themselves, which is kind of good. They know if it becomes a problem, they lose it, so you just make sure garbage cans are provided for them.

Using a hose on the back of a water truck, the Grounds crew from Physical Plant washes the courts about once a year. They also look after the sweeping and garbage pick up. However, according to Wayne McHutcheon (1993), the University Grounds Manager, "Officially we do the maintenance, well... not the day to day, but the capital upgrading, the improvements, the new surfacing... We don't do the cleaning or the regular maintenance."

Michel Oullette (1993), the Program Manager for Residence Life, explained how the courts are used and controlled now.

> The courts are used on a first come - first served basis. They are supposed to be for University students but because of the proximity to the residences some of the students here think they are theirs. But they aren't for the Lister students exclusively.
>
> We control the lights from the office. The courts are heavily used. We are pretty lenient most of the time but in summer we don't let them play past midnight.

The two courts at the Lister Residences are the only two courts left on the U of A Campus. However, there have been other courts on the campus that were not officially part of the University facilities.

Hospital Courts

In 1952, just south of the University Hospital residence, a new Nurses residence was built for the Aberhart Sanitarium. In between the two residences, two tennis courts were constructed. In addition, there were two more courts within the courtyard of the original Nurses Residence (now the Hospital Education and Development Centre). Both sets of courts can be seen in some of the aerial photographs in the Archives. These facilities were intended to be for the use of the nurses and never fell under the responsibility of the University. "We never used them. They didn't belong to the University of Alberta. The Jubilee Auditorium, the Nurses residences and the Hospital are not University property." (Glassford, 1993).

However, Hugh Hoyles (1993, 1994), the Associate Director of Campus Recreation, recalled an exception.

> When we ran a big Intramural tournament, we used every

> court we could get because in the fall we always had to gamble with the weather. We would talk to the Nurses Residence people and they would give us a slot of time.

According to Leonce Kempf (1993), the Mechanical and Architectural Coordinator for University Hospital Physical Plant, the two courts in the Nurse's Residence courtyard were removed when the MRI (Magnetic Resonance Imaging) was installed in about 1984 or '85.

> The other two were between the residence buildings. I don't know when they were built but they were taken out in approximately 1978 or '79 when the Health Sciences Centre was built. It was used as a lay down area and a big Butler building was put up. They were still there after that but they weren't really used. We stopped maintaining them. They were tennis courts in that they were flat asphalt but they had cracks and weren't really good. They were finally removed for a parking area in the mid-eighties.

Although the two courts in the Residence courtyard were a well-kept secret, the other two were highly visible to pedestrian and vehicular traffic, making them susceptible to public use.

Dr. Garry Smith remembered playing on the courts when he was a student but never used them as a Faculty of Physical Education staff member (1993). Russ Sluchinski (1993), assistant manager at the U of A Tennis Centre, also frequented the courts.

> I played on those. I used to go by there all the time on my way home so I knew they weren't usually busy. They were just asphalt so they weren't as good or as popular. So when the regular courts were busy, I just went over there. I could always get on.

Caroline Krewski (1993), a receptionist at the Tuberculosis Clinic (in the Aberhart Nurses Residence), recalled the courts and their removal.

> They were right out here - out this window. I started here in 1985 and the courts were taken out about '86 or 87. They eventually constructed a big aluminum or steel shed over half the courts, then they removed them all

> for parking. They were supposed to be for the nurses but I don't think they were used very much.

Faculte Saint-Jean

There are two outdoor courts south-west of the main college facilities at 8406 rue Marie-Anne Gaboury - 91 Street. According to former students, local residents, and program administrators, the courts receive moderate to active use. Although the location is considered,"ideal" or "great", users recount problems with the quality of play, due to the asphalt surface and the difficulty of maintaining the courts in a site remote from the University. Bruce Letcher and Dr. Garry Smith both commented on the age of the courts.

> I don't know when they would have been built. I think they have been there forever. They were worn out by the time I got here in 1970. (Letcher, 1993)

> I used to live in that general area as a kid. I used to sneak over there and play. No courses have been held over there. They have had courts there, the same courts, probably the same maintenance, for as long as I can remember. It's too bad because its a nice location, but they are falling apart. (Smith, 1993)

Tracy David, of Campus Recreation Non Credit Instruction, tried to run some NCI tennis lessons at the Faculte for "a couple of summers about four or five years ago." The lessons were discontinued because there was not a large demand for them. "We filled the classes we ran but it also depends on if someone out there wants to organize six people." (1993).

Wayne McHutcheon (1993) of Physical Plant explained the limited role his staff plays at the site:

> With the courts at Faculte Saint-Jean - there are two courts over there, they are just asphalt - we haven't done anything other than weed control. We did an estimate on work to get them resurfaced but when the

> figures came in, the dollars seemed to drop tennis off their favourite sport list.

The Grounds crew of Physical Plant are responsible for the regular upkeep of the courts, including washing, sweeping, and garbage pick up. Bruce Letcher (1993) said that the cleaning is done once a year or a little more often.

> I think Ron [Urness, of the Arena of Support Services in Physical Education] is in charge of the nets, but maybe we do it, because we have someone out there. It is a matter of convenience. John [Barry, Director of Support Services] supplied the nets.

A possible reason for the lack of upkeep arose when Hugh Hoyles (1993) of Campus Recreation recalled some of the projects that he has discussed with Faculte Saint-Jean.

> There have been a couple of possible projects out there. The Dean wanted to resurface. The courts are still old rough asphalt, as you know. So its not the best, but people still use it. But they were thinking of trying to upgrade it. We talked about special camps combining physical and cultural, especially the linguistics. You know, having sports camps where you come and learn and play but converse only in French.
>
> And another thing, they were looking at a sport complex out there, 'cause they have money. Some private donation. And they wanted to put in an arena and so forth, that would plunk down in behind, right where the tennis courts are. So maybe that is why they haven't gone ahead with any improvements to the courts.

At one time, the Faculte Saint-Jean gymnasium was occasionally used for indoor tennis. Although the facility was not ideally suited to tennis, the scarcity of indoor courts in the city compelled some of the students to utilize the space. Maxim Jean-Louis (1994), Vice-President of Athabasca University and a College Saint-Jean student from 1971 to 1974, remembers the linoleum floor made play very fast.

> Super fast! There was almost no runback area. And the

> ceiling was very low so lobs were rare. Just bang-bang play. The basketball hoops also prevented you from serving near the middle of the court. You had to stand out wider so you wouldn't bang your racquet on the backboards. In spite of all those things, I remember that it was fun. Very much so.
>
> Although you had to ask permission, the court could be set up when there were no other activities. It was a service that was already offered. They had a net and lines on the floor. (Jean Louis, 1994).

Dominique Aigu (1993, 1994), a Secretary at the Faculte Saint-Jean, was aware that the gym had been used for tennis in the past but said that it no longer is. She was unable to find anyone at the Faculte who knew the individual to contact about booking or maintenance of the outdoor courts.

University of Alberta Tennis Centre

The University of Alberta Tennis Centre was constructed in 1982-83 through a joint venture entered into by the University and three levels of government. The need for the Tennis Centre arose for two reasons - to replace several campus tennis courts which were eliminated by new building construction, and to act as the site to host the 1983 World University Games (which required several world calibre courts). Construction of the Centre was completed just prior to the July 1st opening of the Universiade competition in 1983. (Tennis Centre files).

After lengthy debate, an off-campus location was chosen for the tennis facility. The Tennis Centre is located near the Michener Park Student Housing on 51st Avenue about three kilometres south of the campus. The Centre has a total of nine courts plus a small clubhouse. (Tennis Centre files). Dr. Glassford, the second Dean of the Faculty, recalled some of the problems getting the Tennis Centre started.

> It's off campus. That was the big argument. That was why a lot of people wanted more courts left here on

> campus for later use. It was not a popular decision that we took. Also the people down there weren't all that keen on carving up the residences. As it happens it hasn't been a problem.
>
> There was quite a conflict over whether we should concentrate all the courts in one location. Many people wanted to put some on campus but in the end we said "If we are going to do it, we should concentrate them all in one spot and make it into a real centre." And then we didn't have enough money so we said "Lets try to build it or design that building so we can add onto it" because I still believe that it should eventually be a full racquets centre - badminton and international squash courts and tennis. They were supposed to deadhead all the water and sewage services so it could expand out the wings. And overlooking the courts you could have built two stories high. Dreams, dreams....

At the completion of the Universiade Games, the Centre was turned over to the Faculty of Physical Education and Recreation. For the remainder of the summer and the following summer seasons, the Centre was operated as a tennis club by Physical Education Support Services. In 1986, a full-time manager (Robert Bell) was hired and later that fall, four of the courts were covered with a donated air support structure (bubble) to allow for year round use of the facility. (Tennis Centre files, Operations manual). Obtaining and erecting the bubble met with some political opposition. Dr. Glassford remembered:

> We did have that major conflict with the Mayfield when we decided to be a full tennis operation open to the public. The people over at the Mayfield created a major telephone lobby against us and caused me all kinds of problems because they phoned the Minister and of course the President. So it took me a long time to sort that out. Then they dumped their tennis. They were charging huge amounts compared to us - so in that sense they were right, we were unfair competition, but we were looking mostly at the University group anyway.

The Centre currently serves several functions. It serves the Physical Education faculty by hosting academic classes, non-credit lessons, and summer sport camps. It serves the University community by providing for play for students, staff and alumni. It serves the northern Alberta tennis community by offering public play, organizing junior programs, holding tournaments and hosting major events. (Operations Manual).

The Tennis Centre is subsidized as a University building, so that utility expenses are covered by Physical Plant. Other costs - such as staffing and improvements - are covered by income from members - membership sales and court fees. Maintenance is officially performed by Physical Plant Building Services and Grounds, but the Tennis Centre staff performs much of the routine upkeep themselves.

John Barry (1994), the Director of Support Services which is in charge of the Tennis Centre facility, commented on its value to the tennis community.

> From a University perspective, the impact may not have been positive. From a city perspective, it's been wonderful. It has allowed us to branch out and get into junior development. It may be the single most significant contribution to tennis in Alberta, or Edmonton, anyway.
>
> From a University perspective I don't know how much it really benefitted the students or staff - probably not much. It has moved tennis off campus. There has been some effect - more so now that any student can drop in to play tennis.

Universiade Pavilion

The Pavilion (Butterdome), constructed in 1982 for the Universiade Games in 1983, was developed as a multipurpose facility. The floor is a Mondo surface, with lines painted for a wide variety of activities. On the inside of the track, four tennis courts are marked. The area can be separated from the track by a retractable curtain. Posts and nets are kept in a nearby storage area and must be put up and taken down for each use. The tennis is used infrequently. Recreation times are restricted to very early mornings twice a week. Some of the Physical Education and Sports Studies Activity Classes are also taught here. Dr. Glassford (1993) expressed some disappointment in how the Pavilion had been utilized for tennis.

> I would have liked to see more tennis played in the Pavilion. We had some Sundays for a while It is fast and the balls skid off the lines but it is quite a good place to play I think. It is warm and dry and there is no wind. I used to like to play there with Peter Lindsay.

He also recalled "We did have a roll-out, we still have it, I'm sure ... a centre court ...blue. It is still stored away. We never have tested it out. It was expensive." (Glassford, 1993). According to John Barry (1994), Director of Support Services, the roll-out court is in "cold storage" in an outside storage area. "I think we did unroll one roll, but the rest is still in the original wrap." The surface is similar to what was used by the professional indoor circuits in the 1970s and 1980s.

The Pavilion has not had a major impact on recreational or competitive tennis at the University. According to John Barry (1994)...,

> The significance has mostly been towards the academic programming - PAC classes. Because it is multi-purpose, it isn't as good a teaching facility as the Tennis Centre but it is on campus and easier for the students. I guess intramural tennis has used it and there has been some overflow tournaments and Garry Smith's annual Fuzzy Balls Tournament and a little recreational use.

Other Possibilities

Late in the preparation of this information, another possibility surfaced. One individual mentioned a court location that no other individual or source had included.

Hugh Hoyles (1994), of Campus Recreation, mentioned that he took a tennis course in 1960 on courts over by the Intern's Residence.

> Across from the Nurses Residence, that used to be the Intern's Residence, there were courts in behind there, to the east of the Intern's Residence. I remember taking a class there from Al Affleck in 1960's summer session. This is where the new hospital is. We (Campus Recreation) didn't use them, they were behind the Intern's Residence. They were exclusively for the interns.

Although there was no reason to doubt Hoyles, other sources were sought. Corroborating evidence was not found. The hospital area was far enough off campus that it was not included in many of the aerial photographs. (Archives Photo file). The ones that do include that area are not clear enough to determine if there were tennis courts in that location. There was, however, a large rectangular space about the size of two tennis courts. Later, in the early 1960s, cars are visible parked in the area, so the courts may have gone the way of many of the campus courts and become parking.

A History of Tennis at the University of Alberta

Chapter 3

Tennis Education

EDUCATION

Early Physical Education

When the University of Alberta started in 1908, tennis was not included in its curriculum. Nor was Physical Education. When the University opened its first building in 1911, neither was part of the curriculum yet.(U of A Calendars). However, concern for physical activities was evident from the beginning. Facilities for athletic pursuits were included in the original plans and were constructed early in the development of the campus. Soon Physical Education was not only included in the curriculum, but was a compulsory component.

Physical activity in pioneer life was informal and a daily part of the lifestyle. Only after urban centres reduced the daily necessity for exercise did physical activity became something that needed to be administered in a person's routine. In Eastern Canada, physical activity in schools was mentioned from the middle of the 1800s. The American Civil War had prompted the inclusion of military drill into many schools. This drill, along with large group gymnastic exercises, became the basis for much of the physical activity curriculum. (Payne, 1980)

In Western Canada, the shortage of larger cities and the later departure of the rigorous settler's lifestyle caused the demand for physical education to lag behind that in Eastern Canada. While Ontario decreed "Drill, Gymnastics and Calisthenics" to be part of the curriculum in 1889, a formal program of studies did not emerge in Edmonton until 1907. The Strathcona Trust accentuated the military component of physical activities in schools across Canada in 1909 by providing assistance to those schools which included the military drill in their program. Games such as baseball, hockey, curling, cricket, and football or soccer were popular but were usually reserved for after school hours. (Payne, 1980)

The rugged frontier lifestyle and the emphasis on basic drill in early training programs made tennis an unlikely choice for inclusion in physical education of the early 1900s. Tennis made its inroads through the Church and private upper/middle class clubs, not through education. Sports like tennis would have to wait for a change in the philosophy of physical education before they would be considered for inclusion in a curriculum of the public schools or the University.

In the 1915-16 University of Alberta Calendar, in addition to the description of the new Gymnasium, there is a paragraph under University Regulations IV stating that two hours of Physical Education per week is compulsory for first and second year students.

> The Department of Physical Education offers to all students the opportunity for physical development under scientific direction. Two hours a week physical drill is compulsory upon students of the first and second years. There is a medical examination of all students of these years to determine the fitness of the students for physical exercises and athletic activity. The work of the department is carried on in the University Gymnasium. (p. 59)

Although written presentation in the Calendar varied, the compulsory physical education continued to be included until 1970. From 1920 to 1923 (when Physical Education courses were first given names and numbers), a relatively lengthy Calendar description was used with only a few changes. This quote from the 1922-23 Calendar is typical.

> Department of Physical Education

The aim of the department is to contribute to health, organic vigour, and good physical habits, by providing an opportunity for every student to secure, under proper regulations, sufficient exercise as a balance to the sedentary demands of university life and to conserve the social and moral values of athletic games and sports. Work in this department is compulsory upon all students of first and second years. At the beginning of each session there is a physical and medical examination of all students of these two years. Further, all candidates for teams in athletic sports must submit to a medical examination to determine their physical fitness to engage in such sports. The examination for men is conducted by the Director of Physical Education and the Director of Medical Services of the University, and the examination for women by the Assistant Director and the Director of Medical Services of the University. No other certificates are accepted.

Course 1   First Year   Three Hours
Physical and medical examination; instruction and recreation to meet the physical requirements of the student at the beginning of the university course; exercise and practice in the fundamentals of athletic games, mass athletics, gymnasium class work.

Course 2   Second Year   Three Hours
Physical and medical examination; instruction and practice based on the work of Course 1, but of a more advanced nature.

Considerable latitude is allowed each student in choosing the form of exercise to be taken, the main factors governing the selection being: suitability of

> exercise, physical condition of the individual, effective supervision, and regular participation. The Department, governed by the result of the physical and medical examination, reserves the right to veto the student's choice. (Calendar 1922-23, p. 172-73).

Specific sports were not mentioned in the course explanations. With the widespread popularity of the game of tennis, with the cultural composition of the University population, and with the facilities in place, it is possible that tennis could have been included under the "considerable latitude" phrase. Although it is possible, it is unlikely, because the philosophy of physical education at that time still favoured military drill, gymnastics and calisthenics.

The course description was condensed over the next few years. Although the message remained similar, there was variation in the wording. The names and descriptions of the courses were dropped after a few years. The time requirements varied between two and three hours per week. The penalty for not completing the physical activity component (the right to refuse admission to final exams) was sometimes included. (U of A Calendars)

The types of exceptions to the compulsory physical education also differed from year to year. The age range for exemptions changed. Marital status was sometimes a factor. Occasionally, participation on university teams was considered. Around the times of the World Wars, the exceptions to participation were usually increased to include some form of military training. (U of A Calendars)

In 1946-47 the Department of Physical Education included the course content in its listings for the first time. Although it is possible that tennis was included in the general content courses, it is not specifically listed among the courses offered.

Tennis Courses

In 1947-48, the Physical Education preamble stated that their courses would place an "emphasis on 'carry over' sports with some team sports." Recognition of the "carry over" value of sports indicated a change in the Physical Education philosophy. Such a change allowed a sport like tennis to be considered for inclusion into the curriculum. As might be anticipated, tennis was mentioned for the first time, as part of a University course - PE 45W.

> PE 45 W Tennis and Badminton
> Fundamental skills and techniques of both sports, with special reference to elementary game tactics and strategy.
> Course open to second year women.
> Prerequisite: P.E. 2

This course, taught by Tessa Mae Johnson ('47-49) and Pat Austin ('49-50), was in the Calendar until 1949-50. In 1950-51, a couple of changes occurred. Physical Education became compulsory for first-year students only and the Physical Education degree program began. The courses were re-organized to suit the new purposes. There were general lab activity courses offered but no choices in second year. Tennis was absent from the lists in 1950-51. For 1951-52 and 1952-53, however, tennis was included in the activities:

> Phys Ed 106, 204, 306, 404, 406
> Physical Education Activities 4 hours lab
>
> The theory and practice of physical education designed to develop skill in, and the understanding of, the activities considered most valuable for schools and

> community recreation, The following activities are included: ...

Tennis was one of thirty activities listed overall and was one of nine activities listed under "Individual and Dual Activities".

The course listed the instructors as ML Van Vliet and staff. (staff - Van Vliet, Eriksson, McLachlin, WD Smith, Austin) Dr. Herb McLachlin (1994) remembered the staff contributions.

> That was when we went into activities. The Calendar thing listed Van Vliet and staff but Van Vliet may have taught one thing and the staff did the rest. I was involved with that. I think I taught gymnastics and track. Pat Austin would have been doing tennis. And Don Smith would have been doing some.

McLachlin observed that the tennis portion of the course was run in the fall and depended heavily on the weather.

In 1953-4, the activities were separated into specific courses. Tennis became one of four sports in Physical Education 306:

> Physical Education 306 A Physical Education Activity Lab Male and Female October (MW)
>
> Theory, practice and teaching of tennis, social and folk dance, advanced tumbling and apparatus and modern dance.

The course was once again taught by ML Van Vliet and staff. Another year, the staff were identified as H.J. McLachlin and P.L.Austin. Dr. McLachlin (1994) remembered:

> Three-O-six (306) would have been about three activities before Christmas and three after. The degree courses were starting to come in. They would start tennis early. It would probably have had four or five

> weeks. At the same time, there was the Outdoor school. There may have been tennis in that, too, so they probably got four weeks plus the preliminary in Outdoor School.
>
> I did the tumbling and apparatus. Pat Austin would have done the tennis. And Doris White might have been doing tennis. She was from California. She was only here a few years. Maybe Affleck did tennis, too.

Physical Education 306 was offered as a Physical Education course for three years. Then in 1956-57, it was offered by Education but not by the School of Physical Education.

Dr. Allan Affleck (1993) recalled teaching tennis at the University of Alberta.

> I likely had a part in 306. They said one of the reasons that I was hired was that I had a certain amount of versatility. I used to use tennis in methods classes, too - on how to teach a particular skill. I remember giving the responsibility to students to teach other students.

In 1954-55, tennis was also listed as part of the compulsory women's Physical Education class (service program). Although Class 2W had started the previous year, it did not include tennis in its list at that time. With only minor changes, such as the addition of aquatics, the description for the compulsory Physical Education remained similar for the next ten years. The name, however, did change in 1959-60 to Phys. Ed. 228. The description for that year read:

> Phys. Ed. 228 (2W) - Recreational Activities

> Women's Physical Education Staff
> Emphasis on the fundamentals of the following recreational activities: Tennis, badminton, volleyball, basketball, social dancing, and golf.
> Ruby Anderson and staff

According to Dr. McLachlin (1994):

> The service program was for all freshmen and all transfers who did not have any Physical Education. They would have come from Camrose and Calgary. Veterans were excused. They were sick of PT and calisthenics. Probably both Ruby and Pat would have been doing tennis. (1994)

Edmonton's unpredictable weather and short fall season made it difficult to run tennis and other outdoor summer sports in the regular sessions. To help resolve these problems, in 1958-59, Physical Education started an Outdoor School called Physical Education 323. The following year the number was changed to 489, and after that it was known as 389. A typical description, from the 1959-60 Calendar, explains the course:

> 489 (323) Outdoor School - Physical Education Staff (80 hours)
> A two week session is held each year for third year students beginning two weeks before the first day of lectures. The "Outdoor School" includes instruction and theory of softball, baseball, track and field, tennis, football, golf, and camping education.

Depending on the year, the instructors for the course were listed as the Physical Education Staff or WD Smith and staff.

Dr. Herb McLachlin (1994) recalled that the purpose of the course was to give an overview of a variety of outdoor activities so that students who could not take in-depth courses in all the different sports would still have some idea of the basics. He said that it also helped many Education students who were transferring late into Physical Education. Tennis only played a minor role in the course.

> Tennis was one of the things you did before you went camping. The whole idea was an outdoor education experience, and Don Smith ran that. He may have taught tennis in it, too. But more Ruby [Anderson] than Don. And Affleck might have been in on it too. It was kind of a staff thing.
>
> Elaine [Fildes] and I brought that idea from McGill. We went a month ahead of registration and would do everything. You name it and we did it. So we brought the idea here and they agreed with it.

Dr. Gerry Glassford (1993) also did some instruction in Outdoor School. He recalled the purpose and the final result, and speculated on the future.

> I taught in that. There was tennis activity included along with a wide range of other activities... so you got a taste. We were the curriculum committee that changed that and put in outdoor education as a route. We may have to go back to that kind of course again as they cut away the budgets and so forth. We have to look at other ways of dealing with things that we think the students should at least be exposed to. We won't be able to have the same numbers and depth.

Dr. Affleck (1993) was involved with the tennis at Outdoor School but remembered that "The staff was much smaller then. All of the staff was kind of involved."

Dr. Garry Smith (1993) had an undergraduate student's perspective on Outdoor School. "I took Outdoor School in about 1962. There was only tennis for a day or something. The School went for ten days. They had a lot of different activities in there."

The course continued for several years without major changes. However, in 1968-69 and 1969-70, the calendars do not give descriptions for 389 Outdoor School, but in 1970-71 the course is subtitled "Introduction to Outdoor Education" and the description the next year indicates that the course had evolved towards our current definition of "outdoor education" dealing with activities involving the environment. (U of A Calendar).

In 1967-68, the women's compulsory course also changed its description, eliminating any specific mention of tennis:

> Phys Ed 228 Foundations of Physical Education with a emphasis on fitness, followed by two electives in recreational activities.

Dr. Herb McLachlin (1993) could not recall for sure, but felt that tennis may have been excluded from the course. "There was a general course and then two options. That was the Ohio State influence from Austin. Tennis could have been out at that time, especially if they waited until after the fitness portion."

The next year a general course was not offered for the Service Program, although Physical Education was still compulsory for first year students until 1970-71. (U of A Calendar).

From 1968-69 through 1972-73, there is no specific mention of tennis in the Calendar course listings. Dr. Gerry Glassford (1993) recalled the change in program that left out tennis for a few years.

> We changed our whole curriculum, starting in 1964. Some staff redesigned the curriculum for the degree. Maury [Van Vliet] didn't like it and he created a new one that was put in place. Then Barry Mitchelson, Pat Austin and Donald Tallas and I started work on a totally new curriculum which is basically what you still have, including the streaming, the specializing, the concentrations, the routes. That came in in 72 -73 and during that period - from '68 which was when the program that Maury created was put in place (it was a new four-year program, before that it was three), it did not have some of these other elements, so that is why you see that gap. Then we put in tennis, you see it

again.

Although Dr. Herb McLachlin (1994) could not give any single reason for the omission of tennis, he did suggest several possible causes.

> I don't know why, to be honest, why we would have dropped tennis. It could have been that there wasn't a staff member pushing it. This was the era of trying to bring up your areas like the psychology of sport or the physiology of exercise. Maybe it went to Summer Session.
>
> Maybe there wasn't any enthusiasm. There wasn't any intercollegiate tennis at that time. I think a lot of the people might have been involved at Garneau or Royal Glenora.
>
> We went through a period in the faculty which a lot of us who claimed to be gym teachers didn't like. It was the people who were research oriented trying to set up their areas. And as far as they were concerned, pedagogy and activity ...this was it. Let's get known as a research oriented faculty and these younger guys and gals coming in with a lot of post graduate work done in the United States had this influence - you've got to be like medicine.

However, beginning in 1971-72, specific activities, such as field hockey and volleyball, or ice hockey and wrestling, were sometimes grouped together to form a course. In 1973-74, with the new four-year BPE curriculum, tennis was combined with badminton in a three credit course called P.ED 236. It was listed with a brief description under the Optional Department Courses as:

> P.Ed. 236 Racquet Sports
> *3 Tennis and badminton. Students should provide their own racquets.

Dr. Gerry Glassford (1993) explained why sports were combined within the Phys Ed courses.

We combined racquet sports - badminton and tennis,

> squash and racquetball. What we were doing then was trying to look at how you extend the body. Games where you extend the body, so you extend it with a racquet, or a hockey stick, you can change your configuration with skates or snowshoes. We were trying to get people to understand some of the bigger principles of changing body configuration. Tennis and badminton, while different in skills, had some similarities. And we could run tennis in the early fall and badminton later.

Dr. Garry Smith (1993) agreed that the short season made the combination practical.

> It was combined because of the time of the year. In the fall you could have tennis until mid-October, then you would have to switch to something else. You couldn't have tennis the whole term because what are you going to do? You would have to have it in the classroom. There were no indoor facilities. There would have been a demand for it.

Over the next few years, there were few variations in the description, except that some courses were reserved for BPE students only, and sometimes the request that students supply their own racquets was omitted. On some occasions, only one of the sports was offered. (U of A Calendars) Dr. Smith (1993) recalled:

> Tennis wasn't always combined with badminton. Only during the school year. In the summer term, it was just tennis. I think I only taught it in the summer, or maybe once during the regular school year.

Although he only remembered teaching the course once, Dr. Glassford (1993) looked back at the occasion 116 fondly.

> I wasn't a very skilled teacher but I enjoyed it. The amazing thing is that some of the kids still talk with me about that course. A lot of them were not Phys Ed kids.

Having had experience with both formats, Dr. Garry Smith (1993) compared P. Ed. 236 to the PAC 100 level course.

> It was more academic than the [original] PAC courses.

> There were written exams and more emphasis on how to teach it. One other thing you might make note of is how it changed over the years. Initially, the people were supplied with racquets and balls. It is only recently that we cut that out. They weren't great racquets but nevertheless... and the University supplied the balls. Now, with cutbacks.... The PAC courses we have now are very much the same as the old courses.

Smith (1993) recalled the different University tennis facilities at which he taught over the years.

> I taught classes in two or three spots. The courts out behind the SUB (the Student Union Building) - there were four courts there. All the way through the '70s we were there, through 'til about '79 or '80. And then we moved to the Windsor Car Park courts. Those were being used in the '70s too. Sometimes there was a course going on at each location. Then we moved to the Tennis Centre when it opened, some of the time, and then the Butterdome.

Peter Esdale (1993), a former U of A soccer and hockey coach, also taught the P.Ed. 236 course at about the same time as Smith. He recalled the types of students, the facilities, the course content, and the other instructors.

> I got started teaching at the U of A just teaching summer school. I can't remember the number, but it would have been the beginning course offered in the summer. Most of the people were beginning players. Well, they were all beginning players - very, very beginning players, all of them adults.
>
> It was interesting because in those days we didn't have the bubble or the Tennis Centre. I used to teach on top of the parking stadium, not Stadium Parkade but the one further north - Windsor Car Park. They used to have tennis courts up there; we used to teach classes up in there. We walked from Phys Ed. and carried our equipment. We used to jog up the stairs, as part of our warm up. It was always nice, 'cause it was in the summer.
>
> There was somewhere else, too, that wasn't on the roof. There were some courts over near there, if I can remember correctly - behind the Student Union. We pretty well used them all. That was it, really, for

> courts on campus. If we got a rainy day, I had made arrangements to teach classes at the Mayfield tennis facility so we did get a chance to go indoors when the weather wasn't good, and that worked out pretty well.
>
> The classes were a combination of textbook - there was a book I had, I can't remember the name of it now - and from the experience I had gained. It was very fundamental tennis.
>
> Garry Smith, I remember... Smitty and I used to kibitz about going to clinics but we never did get away to one. They used to use grad students to teach the classes too, after my time. Bhambani was one of them.
>
> That was between about '77 to '80. They had Spring and Summer courses, but because of my other coaching commitments all I ever did was Summer. It's a great sport. It's unfortunate that we don't have more facilities and better facilities for our students. There isn't much left on campus.

In 1987-88, tennis was given a course and a course number of its own. At this time, the University had indoor facilities, allowing the courses to focus on tennis without fear of being cancelled due to early winter weather. The new course, PAC 235, was worth one and a half credits and reflected a new philosophy for the activity courses.

> PAC 235 Tennis
> *1.5 Personal skill acquisition in service and service return, forehand and backhand strokes, approach shots, volley, lob, basic strategies and officiating. Must supply own equipment. (U of A Calendar).

The focus of instruction and testing in the new PAC courses was to be on practical skills. Dr. Jane Watkinson (1993), the Chair of Physical Education and Sports Studies, explained the origin of the idea.

> We started working on the PAC format in 1983. Naively perhaps, we thought we had both novice and non-novice - maybe not expert - students in the first level Phys ED courses so people were going in to teach the first course in basketball or tennis or squash or whatever

> and they would have people from the intercollegiate teams along with complete novices from the other faculties. And it became difficult for a couple of reasons. One was they [the old Phys Ed activity classes] had a significant declarative knowledge part, tested through exams and papers and so on, which allowed those people who were not skilful to get decent marks and in the end they weren't really prepared to go on to the next course and so on. And there was a difficulty in discriminating and all that type of thing so we decided that what we needed here was an upgrading course - 1.5 credits - only focused on procedural skill. Well, not just on the how to do it, but also a little bit concerning strategies, more personal skill acquisition and it was conceived of as an upgrading class to allow people to enter the real course about tennis with some personal skill.

Dr. Glenda Hanna (1993), the Physical Education and Sports Studies PAC Coordinator, saw the evolution of the course this way:

> The PACs (Physical Activity Courses) came in after a curriculum review where we went away from having combined theoretical and practical activity courses to thinking that in our first level we'll just do the activities and we'll try to get people at a common base of novice-to-intermediate level skill so that in the second and/or third levels of the courses offered they can focus more on analysis and instruction and leadership of those activities and have a skill base to build on.
>
> So we did that for a few years, roughly five years. We condensed the courses to half the regular time so we went to six week courses, and 1.5 credits. In addition to the class time, there were supposedly supervised practice times that were set aside that were the equivalent in any given week to the amount of time spent on instruction. (Hanna, 1993)

As could be expected, not everyone was in agreement with the major change in focus. Dr. Gerry Glassford (1993) felt the change de-emphasized physical education and emphasized specific training.

> They changed. When it was 236 we were trying to build

> the idea that the acquisition of skills can be dealt with through an understanding of the biomechanical principles involved, the exercise and adaptation strategies. You were learning skills but you were building that knowledge on an understanding of the kinetic chain, of motion, the use of the various mechanisms of skill acquisition, various ways of teaching it, through exploration, through part-whole, whole-part-whole method. It didn't matter in many ways what you were learning, as long as you could apply these knowledges, then you could teach a wide range of things. We were trying to break out of a model where we had to teach specific skills. Because as a Phys Ed teacher, I couldn't go out and learn thirty or forty different skills that I had to teach in many of the schools where I taught. So if you learned the big principles, you can apply them to other skills. Then they went back to the idea that you teach for skill. You get the bigger principles in biomechanics and exercise physiology and psychomotor learning and teaching methodologies, but you have to apply it and make it meaningful. Somewhere it's got to be applied because we are a profession. You can't go through everything in every skill.

When questioned about the origins of the new format, Dr. Garry Smith (1993) "pleaded ignorance"...

> I was on administrative leave that year, and when I came back it had already been done. Well, I think I know... They didn't feel that people coming out of the activity classes were very well skilled so they thought if they focused strictly on skills they would be better prepared that way. Then they had a bunch of ideas like practice time ... people would practice on their own... and of course not many of them ever did.

Dr. Jane Watkinson (1993) admitted that the format did not work out quite as well as hoped.

> Now what happened, of course, was that everybody took the 1.5 credit course and never went into the next level of course in almost all of our activities. So while I think the framework made sense in terms of skill acquisition, it didn't work because people couldn't take that many credits in an activity section.
>
> When we first designed it and put it in place, we were committed to the notion of having students gain credit

> by challenge so that they wouldn't be in there [the introductory class]. And so on their transcript it would say "credit" or at least competency in... tennis, basketball, swimming or whatever and then they would go right into the next course. We did talk at great length about whether or not we should keep students out that already had the good skills or what we should do but it was too difficult to do that. If there was a pre-test people could pretend that they weren't good and then show magnificent improvement.

Dr. Glenda Hanna (1993), who coordinated the PAC programs, was especially aware of some of the managerial problems encountered.

> Administratively, it was a bit of a nightmare, getting all of the practices covered, because frequently it wasn't the instructor who supervised the practices. The practices were very poorly attended so basically the people weren't getting what they paid for. So they weren't doing any better in the skill assessments than they had been in the old program where we had a mix of theory and activity. The philosophy in the old program was that you wanted to give them a grounding in that activity and that they would understand it and be able to explain the history, equipment, rules and strategies and the teaching ... a base level understanding of the activity that they could take with them and then build on.

The year PAC 235 originated (1987-88), it was accompanied by a three-credit advanced (three hundred level) course, PAC 331, which combined tennis and badminton. The inclusion at the 300 level was part of a trend that had started about five years earlier when some of the other minor sports began to be offered in advanced form.

> PAC 331 Analysis and Instruction of Racquet Sports
> *3 Tennis and badminton. Students should provide their own racquets. (For BPE students only.) Prerequisite: PAC 231 [Introductory Badminton] and PAC 235, or consent of the Department.

When asked why there was advanced instruction of tennis added after so many years, Dr. Glassford (1993) replied:

> It was a sequencing concept in a number of different activities. There was the idea that you couldn't master all the different components in one course. People were saying I'd like to be able to take advanced, but the primary driving force was the idea that they had to move up -right up to the level of coaching because that fit into the coaching route. So you take these courses - the basic through the advanced through the coaching. Even though the philosophy may have been good, unless there was a demand for it you can't go on teaching. You can't teach if there are aren't enough students. So yes, there was enough interest in it.

Dr. Hanna (1993) also recalled the demand for different levels.

> When we went to the 1.5 credit courses, a number of instructors said "Wait a minute! If we are going to do that, we are losing the basis of teaching people about teaching activities. We can't justify just having these Intro courses. We need to have second level courses where we can get people cognitively relating to the sport. So lots of courses went that way, to extra levels.
>
> There was substantial demand, too. There is always demand for the activity classes. (Hanna, 1993)

Dr. Garry Smith (1993) added his opinion on advanced level tennis.

> [Until recently] There were never any advanced courses that I'm aware of. Until you [Robert Bell] got here, we didn't really have anyone that would be able to teach it, that would have been qualified, that was on staff. I think they did use some people that were off campus once in a while to teach.

Glassford (1993) remembered teaching the course a couple of times, but modestly claimed to have been underqualified. He shared the instruction with other Physical Education staff. "Peter Lindsay and I taught the 300 level class. We shared duties. And John Dunn and I did one, too."

From 1989 to 1992 the introductory course description simply read:

> PAC 235 Tennis *1.5 An introduction to basic tennis strokes (forehand, backhand, serve, and volley) and strategies. (U of A Calendar).

In 1991-92, the introductory course number was changed to PAC 135. The course, however, remained the same. Dr. Hanna (1993) explained the change.

> All of the first level courses used to be 200 levels and they were all changed to 100 levels. We have no more 200 level PAC courses. It was part of the Universities restructuring of its course numbering system. They wanted all introductory courses to 100 level courses. We went along with that change. (Hanna, 1993)

Dr. Watkinson (1993) said the altered numbers were due to:

> a general across-the-board university change. Every course that didn't have a prerequisite - I can't remember exactly what the definition was - but that was when all of our courses went to a 100 number, all the ones that were first year courses.

Also in 1991-92, advanced tennis was given its own course number, separate from badminton. The Calendar read:

> PAC 335 Analysis and Instruction of Tennis *3 Theory and practice of the skills and strategies of tennis. Students must provide their own racquets, balls and proper shoes.
> Prerequisite: PAC 135 or consent of the Department

When asked why the badminton and tennis content was separated, Dr. Hanna (1993) cited differences in technical skills, amount of course material, and staffing.

> The sports are very different, I think. To be able to develop skills of analysis, instruction, improved performance to an intermediate level in each of those activities, there is no way you can do that in one course, plus give a strong theoretical understanding of the activity area. And we had a tennis person available, on staff. The opportunity was there to

> separate those out.

Dr. Hanna (1993) elaborated further on the availability of staff as it related to course offerings.

> Frequently what we offer is dependant upon who we have to offer it, the staff availability. We have never had a lot of extra money to hire outside instructors, but if we had somebody - a graduate student or faculty - to offer a course and they were keen on doing it, it was a pretty sure thing that that course went. Right now, I am not overrun by students coming and asking for us to offer a course that isn't currently offered ...and there's tons of sports out there that we don't have activity courses for. Students generally seem willing to accept the smorgasbord that is in front of them.

Although Dr. Watkinson (1993) was not in on the official decision because she was on sabbatical, she felt that logistics and demand played the biggest roles in the division of the course.

> I think we must have come to our senses! I don't know... maybe what happened was that students didn't necessarily want to take both of those activities in one course. Some people went into it because they wanted tennis, others wanted badminton. There was more student demand for tennis separately.

Administratively, a separated course was easier to organize. An advanced course (tennis and badminton) the previous year had been cancelled due to low registration, an unusual occurrence for an activity course, especially tennis. What was discovered was that, in the entire university, there were hardly enough students who had taken both the prerequisites - introductory tennis and introductory badminton - to run a full course. (Tennis Centre files). With the advanced course divided into separate sports, the pool of eligible students was much larger (anyone who had passed introductory tennis).

In 1992-93, the introductory tennis course doubled in length and became a three-credit offering. The Calendar write-up changed to reflect the official inclusion of a knowledge component.

> PAC 135 *3 Acquisition of theoretical knowledge and personal skill in the basic tennis strokes (forehand, backhand, serve, and volley) and strategies. Students must provide their own equipment.

Although Dr. Watkinson (1993) was in the Dean's Office and on sabbatical during the year these decisions were made, she commented on the change.

> People found they were spending too much time on evaluation and spending lots of extra hours with the practice times, so we thought let's just go back to the three credit course and do it in a newer and better way this time than we had back in the '70s.

Commenting on the need to change from the original PAC format, Dr. Watkinson (1993) said "I guess it [the original PAC format] was a good model from the point of view of fitting in with what we know about how people acquire skills but practically it didn't work."

Dr. Glenda Hanna (1993) explained the rationale for the change.

> The [original] PAC format was quite different and wasn't all that well received over all, so we tossed that. Last year was the first full year that we went to the new curriculum - '92-93 it started. So we switched back - well, we aren't calling it going back, it is moving forward. Some of the old activity classes didn't have a lot of academic credibility. Some of the instructors would give a rules quiz in the middle and other than that it was all just practice and play. We wanted them [the courses] to be more than that. We wanted to have a broad theoretical understanding that in some courses in the old Phys. Ed. model they got, but in a lot they didn't. So we looked at what were the best things that we did and what kind of theory did we cover and under what model did students develop a reasonable amount of skill. So we came to this sixty to seventy per cent practical/ thirty to forty per cent

> theory where the practical would still be composed of many, if not most, of the skills that they assessed in the six week courses, but the theory component would be fairly comprehensive, would be written up in the course outline, and would be assessed using assignments and exams that would be outside class time.
>
> It seems to be very well received. I don't think I have had any complaints about the new model from students. On the old model, I had line-ups outside my door because students were always "freaked out" that they were assessed totally on their performance. On day one, on the courts, you can tell someone who has a tennis background from someone who doesn't, and you know that within a six-week course that this person is not going to get up to where this other person is. It was the visibility of the differences. I mean there are differences in every course, but in PAC you can really see it.

Dr. Hanna (1993) commented on the increase in Activity Course time over the past few years.

> We went forward to three-credit, with thirty to forty per cent theory component. We've got about ten different theory areas that we hope get some attention in every course, in addition to the assessment of physical skills. We are endeavouring to keep the assessment time to a minimum in the course.
>
> In essence, we have been able to increase the amount of activity time that we offer. Previously we had one three credit course, then we went to a 1.5 and a 3, and now we are up to two 3s. So we have done really well with the changes in the last five years. (1993)

Both Dr. Hanna and Dr. Watkinson commented on the popularity of the activity courses, and tennis in particular. Although Dr. Hanna (1993) believed that the University was lucky to have a facility like the Tennis Centre, she felt that holding the tennis classes there detracted from their popularity.

> Our tennis courses seem to go very well. They seem to be well received. Probably having to go off campus to the Tennis Centre is not a real highlight for most of them [the students]. I think it is great that we offer

> the Tennis Canada certification that allow students to be recognized, not only internally but externally, as leaders in that activity by the time they have come through one or two of our courses.

Dr. Watkinson (1993), as Chair of Physical Education and Sports Studies, was also aware of the demand. "All of our sections are overprescribed. We have many, many more requests than we can handle."

The most recent changes in the tennis curriculum at the University of Alberta have been in instructor/student ratio. Because of the financial constraints on the University, it was decided to increase class size from sixteen students to twenty starting with the fall term of 1994. With the largest facility having only four adjacent courts, more than four students will have to share a court in the future.

Summer School

In Edmonton, with the snows often coming in September and usually by October, the weather could determine the success of the Fall term tennis classes. During the Winter session, the courts would not be available until the last month, if at all. Therefore, outdoor tennis is, and has always been, difficult to schedule successfully at any time during the regular University year. The best months for tennis are, and were, during the summer break. This was especially true when University did not even commence until the end of September or early October.

At the University of Alberta, Summer School started officially in 1913. Initially, students were advised to bring their racquets for recreational purposes, (Summer School *Calendar*) but Physical Education courses were not part of the curriculum. When Physical Education courses were added to the selection, they dealt with topics such as hygiene, folk dance, and physical (military) training, rather than sports and games. The 1920 Summer School information stated that the Physical Education courses would emphasize the kind of things that would be needed for training teachers for rural schools.

Starting in 1933, the course offerings became more specific with topics such as "Coaching High School Games", but no tennis was listed. In 1936, courses were reduced to Physical Training, with Health Education, First Aid and Home Nursing being dropped from the curriculum. For 1937-38, there is no Summer School Calendar in Archives or at Special Sessions. In 1938-39, there is a Calendar but no Physical Education is offered. From 1938-39 to 1962-63, Physical Education was either not offered at Summer School or the Calendars were not available in Archives. The regular Calendar has a section for Summer School but only states "Since 1919 the University has conducted a Summer Session for teachers. For details of course, fees and regulations, see Summer School announcement." (eg. 1947-48, p. 89). This statement was altered as the target market changed.

> The University has conducted a Summer Session since 1919. Established primarily to meet the needs of teachers, the Summer Session provides a variety of courses for the convenience of the candidates for various degrees who are unable to attend regular sessions. Courses are offered also for students interested in special fields and for students entering upon degree work who are deficient in certain matriculation subjects. For details of courses, fees and regulations, see the Summer Session announcement. (eg. 1960-61, p. 17).

Special Sessions were able to supply the Summer Calendars from 1950 onwards but had nothing before that. Physical Education courses were listed under the Faculty of Education. During the period between 1950 and 1962, there were usually three to five Physical Education courses offered each summer. The majority of them were the general introductory courses which could have contained some tennis similar to how Al Affleck (1994) remembered, "I used to use tennis in methods classes, too - on how to teach a particular skill. I remember giving the responsibility to students to teach other students." In addition to these courses, each year there was usually one or more Activity Labs. Usually they did not include tennis.

The Summer School Announcements during this time also had a general student information section that contained a mention of Extracurricular Activities. Under the Sports headline, there was a reminder that:

> Students who are interested should bring appropriate clothing and equipment for participation in fastball, bowling, tennis, badminton, golf, archery, swimming and horseshoes.

Referring to the years prior to 1962, Dr. Herb McLachlin said:

> There was Phys Ed offered. I remembered teaching archery, football and everything else to Education students and that would have been around 1957 or 1958. Those would be in the Faculty of Education. They may not have been in the Phys Ed calendar.

In 1952, an Activity Lab called Physical Education 304 was taught by Miss Elaine Fildes. The description read:

> The theory and practice of racquet games, tennis and badminton. This course will include the history, the fundamental skills and their use, the official rules, and the officiating of tennis and badminton. Particular attention will be given to individual and group teaching methods, the role of these games in the school physical education and civic recreation programs and the organization and administration of events and tournaments. (U of A Calendar)

In 1954 Miss Doris White taught Physical Education 304 which was now described "Theory, practice and teaching methods of tennis, badminton, and archery." (Calendar).

Summer School continued to offer the same type of courses in the Education section through the 1960s. In 1963 courses reappeared in a Physical Education section. There were three courses - only one involving sports. From that year, the Physical Education course offerings became greater, and more frequently involved activities. However, unless tennis was included in some of the very general courses, it was not offered at all. It could have been part of the general courses such as "P.Ed 421 Individual and Team Sports" but was never specifically listed.

In the Summer School Calendar for 1968-69, a course with tennis among several other activities is offered.

> PE 336 Theory, practice and teaching of archery, badminton, folk and social dance, and tennis.

E.B. Mitchelson and A. Carson were listed as instructors but neither remembers the tennis, although Dr. Barry Mitchelson thought it was probably his part of the course. The fact that tennis did not make an impression on either instructor perhaps reflects the level of interest the instructors had and the amount of the course that was devoted to tennis. Mitchelson commented "Maybe that is why I only got asked to do it once!". Tennis was one of five activities and, therefore, would likely not have very much time devoted to it.

Possibly because of the absence of any staff member who was interested in tennis, there are no specific mentions of tennis in the Physical Education courses for the next few years. The course write-ups are brief and not very descriptive. If tennis was taught, it could have been included in a course like "P.Ed.422 Individual and Team Activities".

Nineteen seventy-two saw the start of the first Spring Session courses, but still there were no specific mentions of tennis. Activity classes became popular offerings almost immediately. However, it was not until 1976, that "P.Ed. 236 Racquet Sports - Tennis and Badminton" was taught in Special Sessions. Tennis has been taught every Spring/Summer since that year, usually being offered in both Spring and Summer, sometimes with more than one class offered per session. (U of A Calendars). Initially, when the course was combined with badminton, the Calendar often included an extra sentence explaining that "Tennis will be the racquet sport offered during ..." which restricted the course to tennis only. The conversion to a separately numbered class for tennis was previewed by the 1987 Special Sessions course which subtitled "P.Ed. 236 Racquet Sports" with "Introduction to Tennis".

The course numberings and content closely followed the courses offered in regular fall and winter sessions. They changed from P.ED. 236 to PAC 235 to PAC 135. In 1989, an advanced class - PAC 331 - was even offered in Special Sessions.

Dr. Garry Smith taught many of the Special Session courses from the late Seventies through the mid-Eighties. (1976-77, 80-81, spring 81-82, 83-84, 84-85, 85-86) He was the instructor with the greatest durability; most of the other instructors are only listed once or twice. (Peter Esdale in '78 and '80-81, Wendy Carson in '80-81, A.Turner in '83-84, Yagesh Bhambani in '85-86, and many listings as TBA - "to be announced") (U of A Calendars). The instructors interviewed recalled others, such as grad students, who had taught classes, too. (eg. Bhambhani, Esdale, Smith)

The Special Sessions seem to be popular with students picking up an extra course that will not be too academically challenging or too time consuming. Frequently the students are taking another course at the same time and Tennis is added on because "It is something I've always wanted to learn to do anyway." (Tennis Centre files) The number of sections offered in Special Sessions has increased with the popularity of tennis and the availability of indoor courts and instructors. (U of A Calendars)

A History of Tennis at the University of Alberta
Chapter 4

Play

A History of Tennis at the University of Alberta

PLAY

Tennis is a competitive game. It is designed so that there is a decisive outcome. One player or team wins; the other one loses. Even casual matches between friends are competitive. Every player wants to win. No one wants to lose. In spite of the fact that all tennis matches are competitive, it is usually only the formal competitive events such as tournaments and team competitions that are remembered and recorded. Although they are still competitive, the less formal matches usually go unnoticed and are lost in history.

For a researcher, it is obviously much easier to find the recorded results. These results, however, present a one sided view of tennis play. If tennis "play" at the University is to be considered, it must be remembered that there are thousands of recreational matches played for every tournament match. Unrecorded recreational play, however, must be speculated upon based on secondary evidence. Tennis at the University has ranged in relative importance from the fifth and deciding set in the fifth and deciding match of Davis Cup play to a casual noon hour "hit" between students to introductory group tennis lessons. This section on "Play" will try to provide a multi-dimensional view of the tennis activity.

Before 1873 (Origins of Tennis)

Because tennis did not originate in Alberta, it has no history in the province during this era.

1873-1877 (Sphairistike)

Tennis became established in Canada during this period but, there is no evidence that it reached Alberta.

1877-1919 (The Growth of Lawn Tennis)

Tennis spread across North America and reached Alberta by the mid-1880s, and Edmonton by the late 1880s. The first club in Edmonton was formed in 1891. Alberta had its first provincial championship in Calgary in 1906 (McLennan, 1983). In 1907, the Edmonton Bulletin carried a couple of articles commenting on the popularity of tennis, stating that there was regular competition between the two clubs - Strathcona and YMCA. (Jones, 1970, p. 168)

According to Allan Cox, "university lawn tennis clubs were established in the eighties and nineties [of the 1800s], with McGill probably the first to adopt the sport." However, "intercollegiate tennis competition did not occur until shortly after the turn of the century. (Cox, 1969)" The University of Alberta came into being in 1908 and built its first building in 1911. Shortly after that date, as already detailed under Facilities, tennis appeared on campus.

The earliest evidence of play on the University of Alberta campus is the Archives Photo #69-10-1 that shows a player and court on the yet undeveloped site of the Arts building in about 1912. The first written evidence of tennis on campus is an article from the 1913 Gateway telling of a tournament and mentioning the possibility of intercollegiate tennis.

> Tennis
> A Tennis Tournament is underway on the campus this month, and despite the scarcity of courts, the sport is well patronized by the students. The Co-eds have absorbed some inspiration from the new movement in Varsity athletics and aspire to enter collegiate honours. A challenge has been despatched to the Saskatchewan ladies, and a favourable reply is anticipated. G.R.S. (Gateway Vol.IV No.1, 1913. p. 20)

In the Final Gateway of 1913-14, it states that "In shooting, boxing and tennis all competition has been limited to the students themselves (p. 48)."

That tennis preceded the official provision of facilities probably means that there were some very keen players at the University from the very first days. That tennis was played before the University even provided tennis courts probably helped it become established quickly once the campus facilities were in place. The Tennis Club became one of the first student organizations. In the 1914-15 University Calendar, the Tennis Club officers are listed in the section on Student Societies of 1913-14.

> Tennis Club - Officers 1913-14
> President - R.C. Hargrave
> Executive Committee - Miss C. W. Dyde and R. G. Powell
> (U of A Calendar, 1914-15)

The 1914-15 Officers also appear in the 1915-16 edition.

> Tennis Club - Officers 1914-15
> President - J. D. O. Mothersill
> Secretary - R. G. Powell
> Member of Executive Committee - Miss C. Pheasy
> (U of A Calendar, 1915-16)

The practice of including the Tennis Club Officers was discontinued after only two years, when the Student Societies section was dropped from the Calendar. However, the fact that there was a Club at all, and that it was included in the Calendar help to indicate that tennis was popular, organized, and probably fairly important on campus.

The exact origin of the Club is uncertain. It is possible that someone organized a tournament, and the enthusiastic participants formed a group to become the Club. Or maybe a group of enthusiasts decided to form a Club so that they could host events such as tournaments. Whatever the order, both the competitions and the Club originated at about the same time and are closely linked at the

University. This pattern was the same one that the origin of tennis followed in England when there were only a few years between the sphairistike patent and the first Wimbledon championship.

The Tennis Club became the focus of tennis on campus. It was the centre of recreational play and did most of the organizing of the competitive tennis activities at the University. Although it was always the competitive events that drew most of the attention and that were recorded in the newspaper or the yearbook, players who competed in the tournaments and intercollegiate matches must have been supported by a base of recreational players. It is unlikely that exact statistics were ever kept on court use or general recreational play on the tennis courts. In spite of the fact that this recreational play was not recorded, the popularity of tennis can be deduced by the early appearance of tennis on campus, the provision of facilities, the presence of a club and competitive events.

There is also a presence of secondary indicators such as its frequent appearance in situations other than the ordinary or expected. In the early days, the Tennis Club's high profile at the University caused it to be mentioned frequently in the campus publications. For example, in the 1913-14 Gateway Vol IV No. 4 p33, the title picture with the Athletics section contains a tennis racquet as well as a drawing of a woman playing tennis. In the Athletics section of The Final Gateway of 1913-14 (p. 47), it is reported that "Messrs. Hargraves and Jackson, and others, opulent enough to afford those seven dollar sweater coats, disport on the tennis courts." In 1915, tennis is mentioned in the Athletics section. In Volume 5 of the 1915 Gateway, tennis is once again mentioned under Athletics, and is also written about in a special article on the Tennis Club.

> The Tennis Club
> When Charles VI of France wished to insult Henry V of England he sent him a "tun of treasure" in the shape of tennis balls. The sporting instincts of the French at the time were so limited that nothing outside a tournament of tilt was thought worthy of human attention.
>
> Let those who exercise heroic games and manly diversions cast an eye on the tennis courts at the back of Assiniboia Hall during the clean, dry months of the Session, and they will sanction the judgement of the Tennis Executive that for real sport, invigorating employment, hand and eye education, there is nothing so beneficial as a game of tennis; and for the delicacy of skill, minute exactness of precision, fine qualities of manipulation, there is no sport in the whole propaganda of Athletics to equal it.
>
> The Club has prospered, tournaments have been carried through with the keenest competition in both doubles and singles. There is without a doubt an increasing skill among the flannelled devotees of the game, such that no professional prestidigitator could find fault with its trickery. We look forward to scientific tennis next year, with a hope big with the promise of the past Session. (Gateway, Volume 5, 1915. p. 52)

The frequency of these secondary indicators - the occurrences in the yearbooks and newspapers - supports the idea that tennis was a popular pastime on campus in the early days of the University.

All sports declined during the First World War, but tennis did not die away. The popularity of tennis competitively and recreationally during the 1917 season was commented on.

> The most successful tennis tournament since the war was run off and some splendid games were cut up. This form of sport was very popular and was followed right up until the snow fell. (1918 Gateway Graduation Number, p. 26)

Under the Review of Women's Athletics 1917-18, there is a special note about female participation in the 1917 tournament. "Enthusiasm in tennis last autumn was shown by the fact that about twenty girls entered the tournament. Also many others played the game who did not compete." (p. 30). In 1917 there were only 305 students, including 85 women, at the University and the next year, there were 339 students, including 113 women. In 1918, one hundred and seventy-six people registered in Physical Education - 130 men and 46 women (eg. Yearbooks, Board of Governor's Reports). The twenty women who entered the tournament represent a high percentage of the total available population and serves as another indicator of the popularity of tennis at that time.

Tennis received a minor setback in 1918 when the University closed for most of the fall term due to "the terrible influenza scourge". The University of Alberta: A Retrospect 1908-1929 reports that " Hardly had university classes been reassembled in the fall of 1918 when it became necessary to close down." (p. 22). The Athletics section of the Gateway Graduation Number for 1918-19 described it this way:

> Owing to the closing of the University during the fall term none of the usual activities in the field of sports were begun until nearly Christmas. A tennis tournament which had been planned could not be played. (p.35)

After this, tennis was not mentioned for a couple of years but it then seemed to regain its popularity and continue to grow.

Most of the information on early tennis at the University of Alberta was found in the yearbooks and newspaper. Initially they reported on the Tennis Club and the tournaments. Most of the information from the annual yearbooks, Evergreen and Gold, and the newspaper, The Gateway, was probably submitted by someone from the Tennis Club. The bias is easy to perceive. Almost every year, the season was declared the most successful in history with the standard of play being better than had ever been seen before. And even better things were anticipated in the near future.

At least some of the University administrators thought tennis to be important, too. In a letter from D.A. MacRae, the Director of the Department of Physical Education, to Dr. H.M. Tory, the President of the University, Mr. MacRae explains the reasons why the University should match a salary offer made by the city to one of the U of A employees. One of the employee's appealing qualities was that he was an expert in the construction and care of tennis courts.(Tory Papers - Phys Ed- 15-16).

The climate in Edmonton generally prevented outdoor tennis participation from late October through until April. The summers, however, were generally warm and dry, and provided reasonable tennis weather. Beginning in 1913, the University of Alberta hosted a Summer School every July-August. Under a Recreation headline in the 1919 Summer School pamphlet, students were urged not to schedule a full day of courses, because of outside readings and the recreation possibilities. The tennis courts are mentioned and a photograph of tennis play is included. Under the next title, "Come Prepared", is encouragement for all students to bring their tennis racquets to Summer School.

Although the Physical Education courses offered were not directly related to sports or games, but rather hygiene, folk dancing, and military physical training, the same type of information on recreational tennis was contained in each year's booklet until 1935 when the introductory promotion was dropped from the Calendar. (U of A Calendars, Archives) In his book, Reg Lister mentions that at the early Summer Schools, there were "plenty of social activities as well as tennis, baseball, swimming, and golf. (p. 48)"

It is not surprising that tennis caught on quickly at the University. Although it was originally intended for English garden parties, tennis was a game that was well suited to the University setting and lifestyle. It was designed for young upper-class adults who desired a combination of physical activity and social interaction.

Most university students at that time were from exactly the right background and were exactly the right age. They had just completed their public schooling and were looking for further education and training to lead them into a career. This desire was more characteristic of the upper class than the lower class who were more willing to accept an apprenticeship in a trade or a labourer's job. In addition, a student had to be able to afford a university education. Not only were there tuition fees and often room and board, but one also had to consider the wages that were being given up while one attended classes.

Being from an educated background, the academic staff at the university would also most likely be associated with the middle and upper economic classes. Therefore, the students and the professors were both from the very same segment of the population that tennis originated with, became popular with, and spread around the world with in the late 1800s. Thus, it is not a revelation that tennis would be a popular sport at universities in the early twentieth century. The University of Alberta was no exception.

Tennis had became a high profile sport around the world during this time. The momentum was sweeping across Canada and was probably increased by the success of our first Canadian Davis Cup team. Being considered the third or fourth strongest tennis nation in the world after a first Davis Cup attempt helped raise the awareness level of tennis in this country and also set a standard that Canada has not be able to match.

1919-1939 (Tennis Grows Up)

Prior to World War I, tennis had become well established as a sport at the University of Alberta. However, there was little recorded over the next few years after World War I. The Athletics section of the 1920 yearbook is entirely caught up in the inter-University competitions that were being organized in some of the sports.(Evergreen and Gold, 1920. p. 57)

Interim activity can be inferred from the 1921-22 yearbook article which reported that the Club was "under somewhat of a handicap" because of the short season "but judging by the great number of tennis enthusiasts who frequented the courts this season there is no doubt but that this is one of the most popular sports in the University." (p. 35).

The University tennis facilities were obviously popular with players other than the faculty and students. In May 1919, correspondence passed between the Acting President of the University, Dean W. Kerr and the Assistant to the Dean of Agriculture, Mr. George Harcourt concerning the use of the courts by outsiders. It was recommended that the nets be taken down Saturday night and put up Monday morning. (Archives, Tory Papers)

After World War I, the Club retained its importance on campus, organizing the people and events. In his book, Reg Lister recalled the early days of tennis at the University.

> Years ago there was a Tennis Club for Professors and staff. Jack Webster was the caretaker for the courts. In summer school the tennis club kept the courts behind Pembina for their use, and the courts behind Assiniboia were used by the summer school students. The Assiniboia courts were smaller and not so well made. Mr Webster gave all his time to the Pembina courts and often only watered the others. The students resented this, especially as there were more students using the poorer courts. So they published a cartoon in the Summer School paper, showing the Assiniboia courts with the

> tapes broken, nets in bad shape, and courts like sand hills; but the Pembina courts were perfect. This made Mr. Webster very angry, so they apologized to him in the paper, stating that they did not believe the same man could possibly take care of both courts and they never realized that one man could do such a good job on one and neglect the other! And as a little extra job I had to gather up the nets on Saturday night and hand them out after dinner on Sunday as no tennis was allowed before 1 pm on Sunday. Whose idea it was I do not know, but it was another bit of work added on. And I don't think it made any difference to students going to church, but it goes to show how narrow minded some people were in those days. If at any time there were students out bouncing a ball around on Sunday morning, someone would phone and make a complaint about it. (Lister, p. 50-51)

The focus of the Club's tennis season was a fall tournament. In 1921 about seventy players contested. "Some excellent play was exhibited in this contest and a very successful season was concluded. (Evergreen and Gold, 1922. p. 35)" A special note in the yearbook indicated that some recreational matches were played in the perfect weather of January 12. The Club also optimistically anticipated that "considerable playing can be done before break-up of the term in the spring." (p. 35).

The 1922-23 yearbook write-up included pictures of prominent club members, the champions and the executive. Over 100 players participated in their tournament with a standard of play "distinctly higher than in previous years." (p. 39). The 1923-24 yearbook claimed that "the interest shown by non-players who attended the games as spectators augurs well for the future of tennis." (p. 36).

The Tennis Club actively tried to improve. In addition to the court maintenance problems, they also addressed the absence of a clubhouse or change room. The Henry Marshall Tory papers in the Archives contains an agreement reached between the University and the Club in 1924.

1924 Club agreement

> Memorandum of Meeting - May 5, 1924
> Agreement between the University of Alberta and the
> University Tennis Club
> For the Season of 1924
>
> Accommodations
> The men shall have the use of the dressing room and showers of the lower gymnasium in Athabasca Hall, entering by the rear door.
> The ladies shall have the use of the dressing room and bath in the corridor of Athabasca Hall adjacent to Miss Russell's office.
>
> These limits must not be transgressed by members of the club, and any infringements of the privileges accorded shall be reported at once to the officers of the Club for action.
>
> Teas
> Teas will be served in the Lounge Room on Saturdays and holidays from 4 p.m. to 5.15 p.m. Tea service will be individual and collections made by the waiter in charge. The ordinary charge for individual tea service will be 25 cents but additional tea service may be had for an extra charge. Players must observe the hours stated.
>
> Club House
> For the season of 1924, the club may either move the dressing room of the skating rink to the plot of ground west of the tennis courts, or may erect a suitable booth on this same plot. This dressing room or booth will serve as headquarters for the attendant, to whom is also granted the privilege of selling tennis balls, soft drinks, and chocolate bars.

A more practical option was found and a hand-written note was added to the bottom of the agreement at a later date.

> P.S. June 9. It was subsequently found to be most feasible to provide club house accommodations in a part of the brick building just north of the courts behind Pembina Hall. J.W.C.

Intercollegiate tennis, which started in the fall of 1924, probably owed its existence to the Tennis Club on campus. It was the Club that organized the local tennis competitions from which the top players were determined. And it was probably the Club that organized the players and the events when tennis joined the movement and was accepted as an intercollegiate sport.

Universities had entered the trend to club formation at an early stage. McGill University formed a tennis club in 1881 when courts were built on campus. In 1887 the McGill Ladies' Lawn Tennis Club hosted their first tournament. Two years later, Queen's University Tennis Club held its first annual tournament. In 1894, the University of Toronto Lawn Tennis Club was formed. In 1905, the first intercollegiate tournament was played at Kingston between Queen's McGill, and Royal Military College. (Schrodt, Redmond, Baka, 1980, p. 113-114)

The idea of intercollegiate tennis at the University of Alberta also started early, almost as early as tennis on campus. Probably after some of the competitive players had won the local tournament, they began dreaming of greater conquests. A 1913 Gateway article on tennis contains some early mention of inter-university challenges.

> Tennis
> A Tennis Tournament is underway on the campus this month, and despite the scarcity of courts, the sport is well patronized by the students. The Co-eds have absorbed some inspiration from the new movement in Varsity athletics and aspire to enter collegiate honours. A challenge has been despatched to the Saskatchewan ladies, and a favourable reply is anticipated. G.R.S. (Gateway Vol.IV No.1, 1913. p. 20)

The Tennis Club, however, still had to wait a few years - until 1924 - before their dream became a reality. That year, although the Club continued to grow, they had their local tournament cancelled by an early snowstorm. The Intervarsity Team selections were made through a knockout tournament. The intercollegiate match was a meeting between the University of Saskatchewan and Alberta players, which Saskatchewan won.

In 1925-26 the Club singles tournament was used to pick the Inter-Varsity team which travelled to Saskatoon. The U of A team finished "second best." The Club Doubles tournament was snowed out at the semifinal stage. The yearbook contributor noted that there were bigger and better things ahead for tennis.

> It has been interesting indeed to watch the progress of tennis in the University of Alberta, and see it evolve from simple and careless competition in only two events to the careful and spectacular game now played and the highly complex program presented this year. Undoubtedly the next two or three years will see tennis a major sport with a Fall meet, the four Western Universities competing. (Evergreen and Gold 1925-1926, p. 61)

Although the Team matches became the high-profile events covered by the newspaper and yearbook, the Tennis Club still maintained its central position in tennis at the University. The Tennis Teams were frequently chosen from the campus tournaments that were organized by the Club. Although the media coverage declined gradually as the intervarsity results took over, the Club continued to exist up until the 1980s. The intervarsity ended in 1968, just a few years after it stopped being reported in the yearbook.

In the 1927 yearbook there is a picture of competitors from British Columbia, Saskatchewan, and Alberta at a tournament held in Edmonton in the fall of 1926 (p. 68). Four players represented each university. "The contestants played some of the finest tennis ever seen in Edmonton..." UBC ended up being victorious. It was noted that the attendance of spectators was gratifying. The retiring Club President suggested that, because of the weather, representatives be chosen earlier in October from a group of the best players chosen by a committee. The annual Club tournament was recorded as being successful in quality and quantity of participants. (p. 67)

The tennis entry in the next Evergreen and Gold started "The lively interest in tennis of former years was present to an even greater extent during the fall of 1927. The eight university courts were taxed to their capacity during the whole of the season. (p. 37)" The Club tournament attracted over one hundred keen entrants. Inter-varsity tennis in 1927 took the form of a meet between Alberta and Saskatchewan teams. Saskatchewan won five of seven matches (p.37). In 1928 the level of play in the local fall tournament had the contributor excited once again about the University's future chances in intervarsity matches. However "it is hoped that inter-varsity tennis will be resumed on a permanent basis next year (p. 52)."

Intervarsity competition did resume in 1930 with a trip to Saskatoon on November 8 and 9. Saskatchewan won again by dominating the mixed matches on the second day. The weather cooperated perfectly but wasn't as kind at home where it prevented completion of all the local tournament events but one (p. 129). In 1931, the season was once again declared the most successful in history. The varsity tournament was completed and for the first time, Alberta won the intercollegiate title from Saskatchewan (p. 133). The next year two men and two women travelled to Saskatoon and successfully defended their Western Intercollegiate Tennis Championship. An early snow and cold weather prevented the completion of the local varsity event which had over eighty entries. Only the mixed doubles was decided. (p. 119)

In 1933 Saskatchewan did not field a team to play in Edmonton. However, the local interest continued to grow. There were seventy three entries in the men's singles at the annual tournament. Only the ladies' doubles was not finished this year. "Despite the unfavorable time of year which does not lend itself to the best display of tennis ability, many fine matches were played. A marked improvement in the calibre of tennis at this University was noticeable,..."(p. 239). The following year, all the events at the Varsity tournament were successfully completed. From among the winners, the Intervarsity team was chosen for a match at home against the University of Saskatchewan. Alberta won for the third straight time.

They made it four in a row the next fall, by winning in Saskatchewan. Once again the team was chosen from the results of the tournament "held soon after Varsity began." It is noted that "Due to the postponed opening of University the season was a very short one." The yearbook stated that "Tennis is one sport in which intercollegiate competition has proved extremely successful" and suggested that the challenge for the Hammond Cup had strengthened relations between the two universities. "...and it would be a great stride forward if it again became possible to include Manitoba and British Columbia in these annual competitions." (p. 235). In 1936, poor weather prevented the University of Alberta tournament from being completed but an Alberta team retained the intercollegiate title with a win at home over Saskatchewan. Plans to include Manitoba were mentioned. (p. 261).

The yearbook is unclear in the article about the 1937-38 competitions. It says that the men's events at the annual tournament were never completed due to the unfavorable weather, but in another paragraph it claims the results were used to pick the intercollegiate team that travelled to Saskatchewan to win its sixth consecutive title. In 1938 the annual tournament was completed early in the fall "thanks to the efficient work of the managers." At home, the intercollegiate team lost only one match in winning for the seventh consecutive time.

Although the intercollegiate teams were competitive, not all the top players even participated. Dr. Harold (Hal)

Richard of Edmonton, one of the top provincial players of that time, remembers little about the tennis team at University because his attention was elsewhere.

> I graduated in the spring of '37 and was playing other sports and getting ready to intern so I wasn't playing any intercollegiate tennis then. I don't recall if there was any earlier. My son and daughter both played later when they went to school there.
>
> I used to play in the summer though. I was playing provincially then, too. We played on the courts behind the residences. They were red shale then. I think there were four behind Pembina and three behind Assiniboia. That's more than the campus has now." (Richard, H., 1990)

Alberta's winning streak was brought to an end in 1939. The team had to be chosen by Club officials because the University tennis tournaments were unfinished because of weather conditions. Over the next few years, World War II dominated events and thoughts on campus. Intercollegiate sports took a break.

The period between the two World Wars was a period of growth and immense popularity for tennis internationally, part of "the Golden Age of Sports". While tennis remained popular with the upper class, it also reached into the middle class to capture a new and much larger group of participants. Undoubtably the high world-wide profile also helped this to be the peak of popularity of tennis at the University of Alberta. The Club was very active and popular. Their tournaments grew in size and strength, and sometimes had over a hundred competitors. The successful competitors in the tournaments may have been the impetus for the intercollegiate challenges that developed in the mid-1920s. Being an intervarsity sport also gave tennis a higher profile.

Initially the Club and its tournament attracted most of the write-ups in the Evergreen and Gold yearbooks. The relatively large size of the Club competitions reflected the popularity of tennis during this period. However, as the Intercollegiate tennis became more established, it began to get most of the press, and the Club took a secondary role. The Club activities that were reported were usually confined to the Club tournament that was used to select the Intercollegiate team. Although the popularity of tennis did not seem to decline significantly, the importance of tennis at the university seemed to drop slightly from the glory days of the 1920s and early 1930s.

With school not starting until the end of September or the beginning of October, tennis battled a very short season with the distinct possibility of its events being incomplete or cancelled because of weather. With the local tournament and the intervarsity event frequently being interrupted by inclement weather, it would be difficult to retain a high profile and positive atmosphere for tennis on campus. In spite of its prestige and popularity among the students, tennis became ensconced in the role of a minor sport in campus athletics during the late 1930s.

Most of the information on early tennis at the University of Alberta was found in the yearbooks and university newspaper. As it was before World War I, the reporting had an easy to detect bias. Most of the information from the annual yearbooks, Evergreen and Gold, and the newspaper, The Gateway, was probably submitted by someone from the Tennis Club, someone who wanted to have a positive image associated with the Club. Almost every year, the season was declared the most successful in history with the standard of play being better than had ever been seen before.

The popularity of tennis is once again confirmed by the secondary evidence in the yearbooks and newspapers. In a 1932 Gateway article "Down Memory Lane" with Dick Beddoes, tennis was listed as one of the highlights of the year. In spite of the short season, photographers often managed to include pictures of tennis in the miscellaneous section on campus activities or sports. (eg. 1929, p.36) Sometimes yearbook pictures of campus life would show a residence room and frequently there was a tennis racquet in the closet or hung on the wall. In the 1939 Evergreen and Gold, the Athletics title page was a full-page tennis player. Another full page was devoted to a drawing of a historical upper class tennis scene. A third full page was used for the coverage of the Tennis Club and included a picture of the tournament champions. For a while, Tennis was even included as a topic in the Contents section at the front of the yearbook (eg.1931-32)

The years between the World Wars are sometimes called "the Golden Age of Sports" and that certainly applies to tennis at the University of Alberta. The campus had at least eight courts. The Club had record numbers of participants. Intercollegiate tennis got started. Tennis had a high level of popularity, prestige, and proficiency. Then came World War II.

1939-1967 (Tennis Gets Serious)

Everything, including tennis, seemed to slow down because of World War II. In 1940, the Tennis Club activities were restricted by a number of factors. The weather prevented the tournament from being completed. The loss of the intervarsity competition due to the war was a "sad blow", but there were hopes that it could be resumed the following year. For the next two years, however, there is no record of organized tennis except the mention of it as one of a number of activities. It resumed in 1943. "On the shelf for a number of seasons, the net game was taken down, brushed off, and once again established as a Varsity sport."

(Evergreen and Gold, 1944, p. 145) The tournament had lost ground. Held at the Garneau courts (possibly because of the loss of the Assiniboia courts), it attracted only 35 men's singles entries. Women's events are not even mentioned.

Men's and ladies' events were both held the next year, 1944, but draws were still not as large as they had been before the War. Intercollegiate tennis was not attempted. The January 1946 yearbook describes an Interfaculty tournament on June 7 - 10, 1945, with men's singles and doubles, and mixed doubles, and includes five pictures of the participants. That fall the regular university campus competition was completed and the Western Intercollegiate tournament resumed in Saskatoon. Alberta sent four players, but Manitoba and Saskatchewan took the honors. (p. 219). The summer school report in the 1946 yearbook contains the results of a varsity tournament and mentions that the season started late because of the delayed repair of the courts. (p. 121). In mid-October of 1946, the courts at University and Garneau were used to complete the annual tournament. The calibre was very high with several top provincial players competing. The intercollegiate event was held in Winnipeg and was hampered by "a howling gale and a raging snowstorm." Saskatchewan beat Alberta by one point. (p. 237).

The team got revenge at home the next year, winning handily over Manitoba and Saskatchewan. The team was chosen from the local tournament which was said to be of very high quality once again.

Helen Potter (nee Lilly) of Edmonton was a team member from 1945 to 1947.

> I didn't play at the University courts much. We usually played at the city clubs - the old Glenora or Civil Service. Even our tournament we played at Garneau. We played a University tournament each fall; I played my first one in 1945. The winners automatically went into

> the competition with Saskatchewan and Manitoba. I don't recall if we ever hosted it while I played.
>
> We had some good trips. We played as a team. The golf team travelled with us. Tennis had two women and two men, plus chaperones, of course. One year we went to Saskatoon - they treated you so well! We were there for the weekend and it snowed and snowed. One day we were out with mitts and gloves. They finally put us into an arena type thing. I forget if we had to draw lines or whatever.
>
> We played singles, mixed, ladies' and men's doubles. We were lucky. We had about the two best men in the province on the team. The women weren't as strong. There certainly weren't that many women playing. Tennis wasn't considered very important. (Potter, 1994)

From its space allotment in the yearbook, tennis appears to have fallen from being an important sport to the category of minor sport. Sometimes tennis was combined on a page with other sports such as golf or cross country. In the 1950s, the term "minor sports" was sometimes used by the yearbook to group several sports together. After 1948, the yearbook stopped including Varsity results and focused exclusively on the intercollegiate play.

The late-1940s was also about the time that campus athletic activity was changed by the addition of Intramurals. The intramurals provided recreation level competition for a wide variety of sports on campus. Hugh Hoyles, an Associate Director in Athletics and the head of Intramurals, related some of the early history of intramurals.

> Intramurals were formalized in 1947-48. There were spontaneous things before that and there were always things going on. But the first time there was a staff person put in charge was a guy named Richie Hughes, I believe, in 1945. That's when the program was started with a staff advisor. But I mean people weren't sitting around doing nothing up until then. It was the first time that the Faculty of Physical Education designated

> somebody to be an advisor. Actually the first person who was on full time was myself. The previous people were advisors. It was all student run. It was felt that the changing times..., it was formalized in 1945 when there was some staff in an advisory capacity. I dug that out from Herb McLachlin. (Hoyles, 1994)

Mo Lyons, an Edmonton lawyer and an avid tennis player, recalled how as a student he played a role in the early intramurals.

> I was at school from about 1946 to 1951 inclusive. I got to know the people in Phys Ed because the gal, Doreen Herliahy, who was secretary to the Dean was a friend of friends. After I met her, I got to know Maury Van Vliet very well... also because I was very active in athletics.
>
> I was contacted by Herb McLachlin and he said they thought I would be a good person to start up this new project of theirs. I had been president of this and that ... I was doing lots of things. I naively agreed. It took a lot of time. We had a real good variety of things to do. I think something like seven hundred students were in it that year. There were lots of veterans and a new crop of students. It filled a need. I don't think anyone saw the demand, except Herb; he knew.
>
> I don't think I did the job with any great efficiency. The students didn't thank me but I think they appreciated that the activities were there. I got lots of thanks from the faculty. I couldn't spend the time needed to do it all. The students largely self administered it. And it wouldn't have worked without the Phys Ed staff who oversaw it. It grew so fast that a student couldn't handle it and they hired staff for it.
>
> It was too late in the season to have tennis. We didn't get started as early then, and we only had outdoor courts. I remember trying to play University tournament tennis in November. It was cold.
>
> I don't think there was as great a demand for tennis then. There were a few of us who were very active but I don't think there were as great a number. (Lyons, 1994).

On an "Intramural" page in the 1949 Evergreen and Gold there are pictures of the Men's and Ladies Tennis Champs (p. 226). After tennis was included in Intramurals, it became a regular fixture. Intramural tennis for men and women is mentioned every year in the Calendar since 1955 when that type of introductory write-up began. The intramural event overlapped some of the territory formerly covered by the Club and probably assisted with the decline of the Tennis Club at the University.

In the meantime, the Team continued. Ed Trott, an Edmonton lawyer, went to the U of A from 1947 to 1954 inclusive.

> I was on the Tennis Team but I didn't play much tennis at University. School didn't start until the beginning of October so it was mostly the Summer School people who played. We either went to Saskatchewan or they came here. If the weather was bad, there was no tennis.
>
> There was a sort of a playoff. Those who were interested came out. It was usually the last week in September. It was during then and the first week in October. The matches were mostly Thanksgiving weekend, the second weekend in October. I think we only played about half the time, with the weather.
>
> In 1949, I think, we went to Saskatoon. We travelled by train, with the golf team... and track, too. It was the only way to go. We stayed at the Bessborough. Johnny Stott played doubles, with Ralph MacMillan, I believe, and I played mixed with Nancy Collinge. Maybe Evelyn Linke was on the team, too. It was quite a trip. The chaperones and coaches said " The train leaves at eight o'clock Sunday night. Be there."
>
> Elaine Fildes was with the Phys Ed department for about two years. She had been number two woman player in Canada. And Pat Austin supervised our training, too. There wasn't much coaching. They just supervised and supplied balls. We got free balls when we practised. (Trott, 1994)

A 1950 varsity tournament is not mentioned in the yearbook, but it does mention that cold windy weather hampered the intervarsity tryouts organized by coach Elaine Fildes. Saskatchewan defeated Alberta by one match to take home the trophies. Frank Oliver, who went on to become a local tennis professional, remembered the year he played with the U of A team.

> I was only on the team one year; I was only at university one year. Then I was offered a job and there was the glitter of gold. Looking back it probably wasn't a great decision.
>
> My last year of junior - the previous year - I'd won the three Alberta titles - singles, doubles, and mixed - and then I went to the Nationals in Ottawa and did quite well. So when I went to University, the tennis people already knew me. Elaine Fildes was coach, I think. If I remember correctly I was approached to come out. There were tryouts but I can't remember exactly what was involved. It was the very first time I'd ever played on black asphalt courts. There were four courts - two by two - behind the residences, maybe behind Pembina... at the south end anyway. They were raised up above the road that ran on the west and I believe there was a slope up to the residences, at least at one end.
>
> The first day that I was out for tryouts, - I remember this so well - I went running to my right for a ball in the forehand corner at the baseline. Of course, I had been playing on red shale courts - that's what all the city had then - and you slid into the last few feet for the shot. So I went for this shot, and my foot didn't slide and over I went and skinned my whole right side. That's the thing that stood out most in my mind.
>
> For tryouts, if I recall, we played a series of matches. I guess the only real training that we did was when we practised down-the-line forehands, or backhands, or crosscourts or things like that. There was no training as we know it today. The coach was there mostly to pick the team and manage. She herself was a very good player.
>
> That particular year I don't believe we travelled anywhere. As far as I can remember I think we only played one match, against Saskatchewan here. We only had an outdoor season so it was likely in October. It was cold, too. I would like to say that there were a

> few snow flakes falling and I think there were but I wouldn't swear to it. I don't remember who I played. I can't even remember if I won the match.
>
> Evelyn Wigham - she was Evelyn Linke, my mixed doubles partner - is now in Calgary. She stills plays. I see her every so often when I go down to Masters tournaments. Sterling Haynes, I haven't seen for years. Nancy Collinge is still around Edmonton. She was a pharmacist at a drug store. I used to take a prescription in there when I needed one.
>
> It was a short season. I remember the tryouts, the match, and that's about it. (Oliver, 1990)

In 1951, the weather once more put an early end to the season. The intramural tournament was cancelled. In 1952, the intervarsity matches were played and Alberta narrowly defeated Saskatchewan five to four. The 1954 Evergreen and Gold mentions that after the Spring Weekend "the Alberta girls had done themselves proud..." There is no report of the traditional fall competitions or the male players. However, everything was back to normal the next year. "The University of Alberta continued to dominate the Western Collegiate competition in minor athletic sports. In the fall they beat out Saskatchewan in tennis..." by a 7 - 2 score. (Evergreen and Gold, 1955) Saskatchewan took the trophy back the next year by defeating Alberta 5 - 4. (p. 138)

Things didn't improve for the intercollegiate team in the fall of 1956. The '57 yearbook explains that the team faced wind-swept courts and superior opposition in their 7 - 2 loss. (p. 155) Poor weather, in the form of snow, forced the cancelation of the fall 1957 intervarsity match in Saskatoon. The 1959 yearbook has several photos of the 1958 team and their activities but no text to tell results. The University of British Columbia acted as the hosts for the 1959 tournament and won, with Alberta finishing second. Ron Ghitter acted as coach, making seven years of involvement with U of A tennis.

From her home in Victoria, Judy Wood (nee Walls), one of the team members from 1956 to 1958, recalled:

> I played three years. There was one competition each year at one location or another. One year we won in Winnipeg - we played at the Canoe Club. We played at UBC one year and I think we hosted one year... or maybe it was in Saskatchewan. I would have to look it up. We always travelled with the golf team... on the train.
>
> The team usually had three ladies. In one team match, there were two ladies singles, a doubles and a mixed, and the same for the men. I remember there seemed to be a little maneuvering to make sure that we won as many as we could. You know, we wouldn't play our number one against number one, two against two,... We would sacrifice someone to win the others.
>
> There were tryouts. They were open and you had to play off. We used to play in behind the residences... you know, the courts were behind the halls - Athabasca, or whichever one it was. They were hard courts then.
>
> We were always lucky with the weather, it seems. I don't remember it being bad except the match in Vancouver, I think it rained one day.
>
> It was enjoyable; it was fun. I don't know how long it went. I was sad to hear it wasn't happening anymore." (Wood, 1990)

Alberta resumed its winning ways in 1960. Three visiting universities were defeated by the U of A team on its home courts. The write-ups claim that injuries and inclement weather contributed to the team losing the championship in Saskatoon the next year. Dr. Allan Affleck (1993), the team coach, (Evergreen and Gold, 1962) commented:

> I served as coach for a while - about three years in the early to mid-50s. I didn't really coach. I was really a manager; I just set things up. We had playoffs and came together for the season.
>
> I wasn't really a player. I didn't take it up until I

> was 25, after I got out of the Army. I learned it in the spring of 1946. My two sisters were top players in Saskatchewan. My knowledge wasn't great, but I liked it. In other areas, I knew more than the average competitor, but in tennis I sometimes felt my own inadequacies.
>
> I think I was the one staff who took an interest in tennis. I was away at Summer School so much that I didn't really get involved in the Club or playing. I remember Elaine Fildes. She was on staff in 1948 or 47, perhaps. She was a grad of McGill and I believe she returned to Eastern Canada. I recall her as a tennis player.

In '62 the U of A men finished "first in the aggregate points while the girls placed third" with the combined scores giving Alberta the championship. The 1965 Evergreen and Gold contains a picture of the 1964 men's team but no information is included. The 1966 yearbook edition, however, states that the 1965 team won its "third straight title with an aggregate team total of 20 points."

> I remember the guys. We were fortunate to have three or four tennis champions from Royal Glenora, and Garneau, and one other club [Civil Service] and our teams looked pretty good. And it wasn't because of the University itself, it was because of the other clubs that were quite active. Pauline Ingall, of course, was a real impetus for tennis and badminton. (McLachlin, 1994)

The 1966 yearbook write up concludes with "Everyone will agree that this campus must shed more light on the less known activities at the intercollegiate level...". (Evergreen and Gold, 1966) Ironically this is the last time tennis was mentioned in a U of A yearbook. However, in his history of the University, Dr. Walter Johns often mentioned the tennis team results, but usually only when they won. Therefore Appendix D that lists this era's participants is not entirely complete. The University calendar lists Men's and Womens' Tennis as intercollegiate sports every year from 1955 until 1969, but they didn't survive quite that long.

The Western Canada Intercollegiate Athletic Association minutes of 1966 show that the sport was organized through into the 1970s, with the 1966-67 tournament being October 14-15 in Winnipeg, the 1967-68 event being in Edmonton October 13-14, the 1968-69 event being in Saskatoon on October 18-19. The 1969-70 event was still not allocated. The three host sites had all declared their teams for tennis.

In the WCIAA Coaches Meeting of 1966, it was decided that the Universities had a responsibility to provide competition in golf and tennis. They decided that the first weekend in October was the preferred date. However, at the 1967 WCIAA Annual Meeting in Manitoba, only two teams - the U of A and the University of Manitoba - declared tennis for their Men for 1968-69. Four teams - U of A, U of Manitoba, University of British Columbia, and U of Saskatchewan (Saskatoon) - were declared in Womens. Ed Zemrau's notes were marked with a question mark. However, there was still optimism. The projected schedule planned for the next five annual events. (1968 U of S, 1969 UBC, 1970 U of C, 1971 U of S(S), 1972 U of A.) Later notes had 1968-69 and 1969-70 crossed off. The March 1968 meeting of the WCIAA Women's Section had only three universities declare women's teams. The next two years were still looking for more declarations. (Archives, Physical Education.)

Bev Spencer (nee Richard) was playing on the team during the mid-1960s.

> I was playing badminton and basketball at the same time so I have trouble keeping them separate sometimes. I played five years in each one, from 1964 to '69. In tennis we had a tournament at one location each year with various universities. We played for team points.
>
> One year in Winnipeg we had snow. You had to get going

> real quick in the fall. I think that was one of the reasons why it faded. By the time of the tournament in Winnipeg, it had turned into a blizzard. We played in a gymnasium on a wood floor. Not before or since have I played on polished hardwood. I can tell you the ball came blistering off the floor.
>
> I can't remember everyone who played on the tennis team.There were four boys and four girls I think. Peter Burwash played one year. My brother Lance. The Harris twins. Cam Dalgliesh. And Maida Barnett I think. Pauline Ingall was involved with the team then. She would be a good contact. We used to travel with the golf team. I have good memories of the train trips.
>
> In my day the sports were seasonal. Now tennis is played all year and the training is more serious. I really appreciated and enjoyed all my sports. (Spencer, 1990).

Pauline Ingall and her husband, Alf, both spent a great deal of time working with the U of A tennis and badminton teams.

> I was coaching tennis and badminton until they cut out all the minor sports. All during the 60's. Most of my duties were management. You don't coach much when you have players like that. You just have to be certain that they are there for matches and practise.
>
> One year Peter Burwash came out to play on the hockey team and never made it, so we got him out for tennis. And there were the Harris twins, Lyall McCurdy, Lance Richard, Wes Alexander, Frank (Francis) Van Hestern. There was Maida Barnett, the Hammil girl, and Eileen Harle - she's still in Edmonton in PE at NAIT.
>
> We usually played in Saskatchewan or Alberta. I remember we had snow in Saskatchewan once. BC won that one. They were a little stronger than we were. We won at the U of A Sport Week in 1968 against U of S and UBC.
>
> I'm not sure why they cut out the teams. I think that the finances at Saskatchewan caused them to pull out. McLachlin - he was the Dean then - he could tell you I'm sure. (Ingall, 1990)

During their coaching years, Pauline and Alf co-authored a letter to the WCIAA representatives on the Physical Education staff (Herb MacLachlin, Ruby Anderson, and Ed Zemrau) with some suggestions about the badminton and tennis sports teams. They recommended that the teams be increased to four men and four women to give more people exposure to doubles play. They also strongly suggested that every university should send a complete team including both men and women, and that if UBC felt they were too good for the other teams, then they should send a "B" team. The University of British Columbia was also singled out as having shirked its duties as host, which was especially annoying because all the other host sites had to battle the climate more than Vancouver did. The weather also prompted a suggestion to have the teams chosen as early as possible. The ideas were never fully implemented, of course, because, shortly after, both teams - tennis and badminton - were dropped from intercollegiate sports. (Archives, Physical Education)

From the Physical Education faculty perspective, Dr. McLachlin and Ed Zemrau both commented on some of the problems that led to the cancelation of tennis from the intervarsity sports.

> I think there was a lack of competition from other universities. UBC was inconsistent; Saskatchewan had budget problems; Regina wasn't in; Manitoba wasn't in the conference. I think it was mostly the expense. I remember meetings in the late 60's when other universities wouldn't declare in tennis, golf, and badminton. You needed a minimum - I think at least three - to keep it in the conference. (McLachlin, 1990)

> I was the representative to the WCIAU (Western Canadian Intercollegiate Athletic Union) at that time. The problem was with the other universities. I think we were down to just two schools - UBC and ourselves.

> Nobody else was interested. You had to have three or four to be classified as an official conference competition. We had the same problem in other sports, like rowing.
>
> I remember we had some excellent tennis teams and badminton, too. It was because all the better players locally were university aged. They belonged to the local clubs and made our calibre of play excellent. It was a great sport for university involvement. I was sad to see it go. But it was also hard to have a program like in other sports. The training wasn't done at the University and the outdoor season was not compatible with the school year. It was better for Summer School. We did talk to the Mayfield about indoor tennis when it got started. We never did use it for competitive but I think we did use it for classes. (Zemrau, 1994)

Reflecting the fact that tennis had lost much of its support as an intercollegiate sport, Dr. Garry Smith who was on staff throughout the decline, remembered the team as a minor sport.

> The tennis team had maybe a couple of tournaments in the fall - it wasn't a long season - and maybe a tryout. There wasn't much coaching. I mean these were already good players. (Smith, 1993)

Dr. McLachlin (1994) added "Then, of course, you never get it started again, once they opt out." Thankfully tennis players did not let the sport die, and eventually tennis teams did make a bit of a comeback.

Because of the heavy reliance on one source - the Evergreen and Gold yearbook - for the early tennis information, it would be easy to develop a one-sided perspective on tennis at the University. However, the positive yearbook reports on the Club and competitions seem to be backed up strongly by other indicators. The tennis enthusiasts had good reason to be excited. The Club tennis competitions took a few years to recover, but finally surpassed the inter-war years. (eg. 1947) Intramurals then took over and were very successful. Intercollegiate tennis was healthy until the mid-1960s. Tennis retained a spot in the yearbook pages up until that time. Photos almost always accompanied the write-up. Tennis was also sometimes covered under other headings such as Women's Athletic Association or Intramural Sports.

One indication of the importance and prestige it held on campus is how frequently tennis appeared in the yearbook outside its traditional Club page. Several times tennis photos or drawings were used as title pages for various sections of the publication. (eg. Summer Session, 1947. Athletics, 1946) Other smaller pictures were even more frequent. For example, tennis is included in a 1940 pictorial, has three pictures in the 1941 pictorial, and three more in the 1945 "Sports Harvest". In the 1946 January Class yearbook, on the Athletic Board page, three of the six pictures are of tennis. Campus Life sections occasionally gave glimpses of tennis on campus, too. (eg. 1946 January Class, p.55, 1947 p. 193) Other books took some notice of tennis on campus, too. The University histories by Johns, Macdonald and Parker all mention tennis and sometimes even include pictures.

In spite of its apparent popularity, tennis never really seemed to recover its importance after the Second World War and was definitely relegated to the level of "minor sport". By the mid 1960s, the yearbook format changed and minor sports were not included. Intercollegiate tennis disappeared shortly thereafter. The Club continued to exist but its role remained small and declined with the loss of facilities. Eventually, in the late 1980s, it folded. Intramurals started in the late 1940s and soon involved tennis which has continued to be a part of the program up to the current date.

1967-1994 (Open Tennis)

During the late 1960's, the tennis boom spread around the world. Millions of new players entered the game, and professional tennis became a high profile sport. Ironically, tennis declined at the University of Alberta.

The tennis club still existed, and an intramural tournament was still held annually. However, with the intervarsity team having collapsed, serious players were without focus or organization. The tennis boom had made year-round play almost a necessity. To improve and keep pace with other competitors, the U of A players needed to play throughout the winter. Unfortunately, the University did not have an adequate facility.

One group of students took the initiative and approached the Dean of Physical Education about the problem. The solution was that the students were granted use of the gymnasiums (Main and West) weekday mornings from 6:00am when the building opened to 7:30am when the building staff set up for the 8 o'clock classes. The players were tolerated as long as they did not interfere with building staff or operations. Once weather made outdoor play impossible, between four and eight players, occasionally more, practised each morning.

Hugh Hoyles recalled the gymansium being used for tennis.

> At one time we had tennis in the main gym. Have you dug that up? But they would come out. The problem was that it was too slippery: the ball comes shooting off. It wasn't satisfactory but they played. At least they could bang the ball around. (Hoyles, 1994)

The players organized an indoor tournament in the spring of 1973. Both gyms were used for one weekend in March. The event, The U of A Golden Bear Open, drew mostly local competitors in its first year. Tom Hamill won the singles while Frank Oliver/Ralph MacMillan were victorious in the doubles. (Bell files)

When it was repeated the second year as the U of A Indoor Tennis Tournament on March 23 and 24, 1974, it attracted several of the top provincial players. The Australian professional, Lindsay Straney of Calgary won the singles and teamed with Danny Hamilton to win the doubles. The tournaments had the dubious distinction of being the only Alberta Tennis Association sanctioned competitions on hardwood courts. (Bell files)

Although the players never had any official status as a club or team, they helped to keep competitive tennis alive at the University for a few years - from 1971 to 1974. However, the graduation of most of the players folded the organization and ended the idea of a team for ten years.

Ray Tomusiak, now of Victoria, was one of the original participants and recalled how the group got started.

> I think the Intercollegiate Team was finished by about 1968, maybe earlier, because I had started university then and I would have known about it - because I was all keen, you know. The indoor got started in '71 or maybe '70, but I think it was '71 because I had moved into the house with John and Rob the summer of '72 so I must have know them from tennis before that. John Lind and Rob Hettler were two of the main guys, but it was really Hank who did the initial work. I had met Hank through outdoor tennis, behind the Student Union Building where we used to play. I can't remember his last name. He was the key. He went to see the Dean and everything. I remember tagging along one time. The Dean, Van Vliet I think it was, was real nice, very positive.
>
> We had low priority times like six in the morning. I remember waiting for Andy to pick me up. It was something like minus forty and pitch black, and I was so sleepy, waiting for this car to appear in the gloom. We usually had six or eight guys out. We would set up the nets depending on how many people came. Sometimes we used the old squash courts for warm up. They are gone now.
>
> I ran the tournament the first year; I think that was

> the second of the club. We put down fresh lines; we used that yellow and red reflective tape from a highway supply store. I did the draw in my living room and we had a party there during the tournament. The second tournament was more high powered that the first. We just had mostly Edmonton guys. This brings back a lot of memories. We all kind of went our own ways when we graduated. (Tomusiak, 1990)

John Lind was also one of the early morning regulars and recalled some of the interesting events from the club's short history.

> Henry Johnson, he doesn't like to be called Hank anymore, was the prime mover. I just tagged along. I think Henry knew the Dean's family or something so when he mentioned indoor tennis and it got approval, he just took over. I never see him anymore. The last I heard he was still in Edmonton.
>
> The first year we tried to put down masking tape lines. Henry had tried to paint them to make them show up on the wood floor. Well, it hit the fan then! We had to see the Dean about that one. The basketball coach and players were pretty upset that their lines were all crisscrossed. I remember trying to scrape that masking tape off, too.
>
> I used to get up at five to be there at six to play. We had to set our own nets up and take them down. To save time we hooked the nets together and supported them on badminton standards. The ends were tightened on volleyball posts.
>
> Indoor tennis time was hard to get in Edmonton at that time. All kinds of people came out of the woodwork - or onto the woodwork. The hardwood floors were fast. The ball really came through fast. You learned how to prepare early and take short backswings. We had the regular group and then some of the good guys would come out, too. Like Bob Sinclair, and Maxim (Jean-Louis), and Dave Cox. And there was Charlie Tegge with his dark socks, quite a novelty back then. One time I got a call from the Chateau Lacombe. There was a guy from the States or something like that who had heard we had indoor tennis. So there he was at six in the morning, with his racquet and bag, walking in to play tennis on our hardwood.
>
> One guy who showed up had a clothless ball. It was

> made for tennis but it didn't have a cover. When the rubber hit the floor, it "chirped". We used red balls for our tournament. They made them then. You could see them best against the background in the gym. I remember I lost to Bob Sinclair one year. The second year a lot of big names came, like the Calgary guys. I called lines for the finals the second year. We all kind of helped out to make things work.
>
> We weren't really official. We would have liked to be but we were not on record. Sometimes we called ourselves the Tennis Team so that we could justify our practise time. (Lind, 1990)

Throughout this period, the Tennis Club continued to exist although it had a very low profile, and its activities were reduced. Hugh Hoyles, the head of Campus Recreation, explained the modern philosophy of the Clubs system.

> Some people like to do their recreation in a smorgasbord variety, but there are those who like to focus on one form of recreation as well, and that is where our club system comes in. And our club system has basically three components: an instructional component, a recreational component and a competitive component. People join the Club because they want to have recreation but they want to learn how to do it better, so they are instructed and there is a broad base of recreational participants. When they decide to go to a meet or competition, they will go as a U of A club and they will pick from their people who want to be competitive but some will just want to have regular meeting times each week. That's the format of all our clubs right now - with three components. Some are more into instruction, some have more competitions. (Hoyles, 1994)

The Tennis Club would have provided whatever tennis instruction there was on campus, but it was never formalized into group lessons that were available to the general student body. Hugh Hoyles further reviewed the campus club's instruction mandate and compared it to the competition mandate.

> Prior to NCIs [Non-Credit Instruction], in those days, there were two things - you joined a club or you joined a course. Now people want small indulgences. They don't

> want to take a course from September to Christmas. They want something more concentrated. They want to improve their game, so they take NCIs. So there was instruction within the club, but they existed for their members. The instructional component was part of their mandate.
>
> The Tennis Club had competitions. The clubs exist for their members. They had intra-club tournaments for their members, but a lot of them came into the intramural tournaments, too. They [the Club tournaments] were confined to their membership.
>
> We often get our NCI instructors from the Clubs. We try to help out those who help us. So there is a really nice working relationship in Campus Recreation between the Sports Clubs and Tracy's section in non-credit instruction. It's a nice cooperative, collaborative approach.
>
> The Club stayed alive through the summer. A fellow from Argentina, Gus Quian, was one of the last people who was really keen on it. Through the winter, they stayed quiet.(Hoyles, 1994)

The raison d'etre for the Tennis Club was to improve tennis playing opportunities on the campus and to allow people who have a common interest in tennis to participate together. The Club mandate was continually eroded over the years. It lost the competitive portion with the end of the intervarsity tryouts and team. The Club tournament was usurped by the Campus Recreation intramural event. And lessons were eventually taught by Non-Credit Instruction. The Club operated out of the campus facilities. When the Tennis Centre came on stream to handle the majority of student recreational play, the reasons for having the club were almost all gone. It finally folded in the mid-1980s.

For a few years in the late 1960s and early 1970s, tennis was even absent from the curriculum at the University. No one in the Physical Education faculty seemed to have enough interest to champion the tennis cause. In 1973-74, although tennis was finally reintroduced to the

Physical Education program of studies, the tennis doldrums continued. Between the mid 1970s (when the informal indoor club folded) and the early 1980s, there was reduced activity in tennis at the University of Alberta. The intramural event, organized by Campus Recreation, was the one and only competitive tournament on campus. Hugh Hoyles recalled the popularity of the tennis intramural events of the past and commented on their future.

> Tennis has always been popular. Large entries, well over a hundred people per year. We always used to have it, obviously, outdoors and we always play games of chance with the weather.
>
> At one point we had men's tennis in the Fall and mixed doubles in the spring. And Tracy ran a womens'. So two or three years ago, we decided to - why not have men's and mixed at the same time for ease of administration and so on and so forth. I suggested to Tracy that we have Womens' at the same time, too, but she didn't want to. She wanted to keep it separate, which is fine. But that's why we currently have the men's and co-rec at the same time. With the Referendum, its almost a cinch that both tennis's will be back loudly and clearly in the fall. It was on the books last fall, it was in the catalogue, but we didn't have the resources to run them, so we had to pull them along with a few other events. (Hoyles, 1994)

Although the intramural tournament drew large numbers of participants, high performance tennis was lacking. There were no year-round facilities, except the gymnasiums, which were not very suitable. With the removal of the main outdoor courts behind the Student's Union Building, the outdoor facilities were also significantly reduced. The Lister courts had not been built yet, so the only place to play was on top of the Windsor Car Park. While still functional, these courts were a long way from the core of campus activities. Being out of site, they were often out of mind.

The University tennis regained some focus with the construction of the Tennis Centre for the World Student Games - Universiade - in 1983. The facility gave the University nine quality courts for recreation, competition and instruction. With the Car Park courts deteriorating (and soon to be removed), the two new courts at Lister Hall became the best utilized courts on campus, but there were only two.

The Tennis Centre almost instantly became an active force locally. The facility attracted a good local membership. Because of the low costs, many of the students played there. Their presence and their level of play attracted other players who wanted that competitive environment and were willing to purchase the reasonably priced memberships. The Centre became a busy recreational club with its own tournament to determine Club champions. (Tennis Centre files)

In addition to offering club play for members, the Tennis Centre had "U of A Free Time" during which students and University user card holders could play without court fees or membership charges. Since low cost tennis and recreational opportunities were part of the activities traditionally carried on by the University Tennis Club, the newly developed Tennis Centre helped spell the end of the historic Club. With its already diminished functions being usurped by the Tennis Centre, the Tennis club had little reason for existence. It faded and then folded after the Tennis Centre began offering year-round tennis in 1986. Ed Zemrau noticed the change in recreational tennis patterns.

> The recreational play has changed dramatically over the years with the improvement in facilities. With the Tennis Centre, we can go year round now. (Zemrau, 1994)

The Tennis Centre, unfortunately, was off campus, so even though it provided a major boost for tennis at the University, it was not very visible to those who remained on campus. It is only a ten-minute drive or fifteen-minute bus ride from campus but that time and distance removed the spontaneity from recreational tennis play. Other than being listed in the University of Alberta Calendars section on the Physical Education facilities, the Tennis Centre had almost no contact with the majority of students on campus. While it is now common to see the handle of a badminton or squash racquet sticking out of a book bag on campus, it is rare to see a tennis racquet.

Dr. Herb Mclachlin noticed that the absence of facilities affected the awareness of tennis on campus.

> The Tennis Centre has moved everything off campus. And being able to do it in the Winter without obstruction, although there is no reason why there couldn't be more tennis in the Butterdome on campus. It was designed to handle tennis instruction. More courts on campus would have kept the focus on campus. (McLachlin, 1994).

Hugh Hoyles pointed out that there is still tennis on campus but that there could be more.

> There is the Tuesday/Thursday mornings [in the Pavilion]. They get used. There is demand, if there were more courts on campus. Our business is to get people active. We can put tons more people through good experiences with a thing like volleyball. The only reason tennis is hurting anywhere as far as I'm concerned is "big space for small numbers" I mean that is just the nature of the game. I have no problems with it. When you can have twelve people playing instead of four.... There is time at the U of A Tennis Centre. I think the courts at Lister are used very well. We make sure that they are looked after and make sure Ron puts up the nets and takes them down in the fall. Faculty St. Jean looks after their own physical plant but we have a Rec Admin assistant out there.
> There should be more opportunity. The demand for rec tennis is there. (Hugh Hoyles, 1994)

With its full-time staff, the Tennis Centre was able to offer many extra services and programs that had not been offered by the University previously. Leagues, ladders and socials were organized for members. The Tennis Centre joined the Greater Edmonton Tennis Association interclub. The facility is the site of several tournaments a year for all abilities from top provincial competitive to "C" and "D" level recreational. The facility not only provided an indoor guarantee for academic classes, it also secured the individuals (through employment) who were interested in the sport. These individuals were utilized to teach classes and lessons, as well as do the administration.

In addition to Tennis Centre lessons, the Centre staff also teaches most of the Non-Credit Instruction [NCI] lessons for Campus Recreation. Hugh Hoyles recalled their origin.

> NCIs started in 1978 and tennis became a part of that quickly. The non-credit instruction program has been one of the most important aspects of Campus recreation that has been introduced in the last fifteen years. It is how the whole concept is evolving... it's evolving right now as we speak... but anyway people in the old days when it was interuniversity and intramurals and men's and women's never even looked at each other, it was all sport, and people wouldn't come into some programs because they didn't feel they were good enough, and there should never be that situation. So that really filled an area...We used to have miniclinics prior to the sport but this formalized it and gave lots of opportunity for people just to improve themselves, this whole concept to self-esteem so they can go out and play a game and just enjoy it more. I think it was a fantastic addition. It formalized the instructional element in recreational programs. A lot of other universities have done the same thing. (Hoyles, 1994)

One of the other goals of the Tennis Centre has been to develop high performance athletes. Realistically, however, that objective had to wait until the Centre became year round and organized. Then, of course, it took a few additional years for the players to have time to develop.

The high performance project started with a junior development program. Instruction has been offered in a wide variety of forms including half-hour group introductory lessons for children under ten, regular junior group lessons, the U of A Summer Sports Camps, a recreational program that runs weekly all season, and the year-round competitive training for ages 8 to 18, as well as the usual private lessons with the Tennis Centre professionals. The program has had phenomenal success and is still getting stronger. Within a couple of years of starting the year-round program, the Tennis Centres boasted provincial champions among its members and, within a half dozen years of starting a year-round program, there was a national champion calling the Tennis Centre his home club. At the most recent provincial event - the 1994 Indoor Junior Provincials - the Tennis Centre swept the lower age categories, winning the Boys and Girls in both the Under 12 and Under 14. While not quite as strong yet in the older categories, their members also won the Boys 16s, and were runners-up in Girls 16 and Boys 18. Within six years of starting a year round program, the Tennis Centre had established itself as the top provincial club for junior competitors.

The earliest graduates of the junior program have also stayed at the University and found a chance to further their competitive tennis. The construction of the U of A Tennis Centre in 1983 gave the University a world-class tennis facility. The Centre enabled the University to provide outdoor facilities for Physical Education and Sports Studies classes, Department of Athletics Summer Sports Programs, Campus Recreation lessons, and U of A Free Time. In addition, the site served as a summer club for U of A staff, students and public members. Enquiries about a student's tennis team were frequent. However, the University still did not have a facility that would make year-round tennis practical. Because the climate had not changed, the concept of team training was no more feasible than when it was discarded earlier.

In 1986 the University covered four courts with an air support structure to enable the Centre to operate twelve months a year. Immediately, the idea of a U of A team was raised by members - students and public alike. Because the bubble construction was not completed until late November and because court use patterns were not yet known at that time, nothing concrete was put together that year. However, permission to proceed with a team was granted by the Department of Athletics so preparations were made for the following winter season.

In October 1987, tryouts were held at the Tennis Centre to choose a team of eight competitive players. The team was selected by the Tennis Centre Manager, Rob Bell, who agreed to serve as the team manager as well. He contacted the University of Calgary Tennis Club and arranged a challenge match that was held on March 26, 1988. The U of A won decisively.

In 1988 the team manager attempted to contact other universities to arrange more matches and possibly a tournament. Although a few wrote back, none of the teams had access to enough funds to travel. The 1988-89 U of A team settled for a trip to Calgary to play the U of C Tennis Club again. Once again the U of A Tennis Centre team triumphed.

In 1989 the University of Calgary formed a team from their top players. The University of Saskatchewan also expressed interest but did not get organized. The U of A Team increased its competitive schedule to include a few matches against local club teams. On November 25, the Tennis Centre team hosted the University of Calgary. This was followed up by a return trip to Calgary on March 3, 1990. The U of C, with several of the top players in the province, won both contests.

Women returned to competitive tennis at the U of A in 1990. Although the original idea of the Tennis Centre team was to include women, very few showed interest. Those who did try out were always disappointed that so few others would attempt to make the team. Finally, one of them, Krista Frohlich, took matters into her own hands. She advertised in the student newspaper, the Gateway, and called all the eligible female player she knew at the University. Her efforts helped to get enough ladies to the trials to form a five member team. In their initial year, a couple of local club matches were arranged and University of British Columbia travelled to Edmonton to play in January, 1991.

The University of British Columbia men became interested in Alberta tennis, too, largely due to the high calibre of the University of Calgary teams. (In a challenge match in Vancouver, the U of C defeated UBC.) The University of British Columbia accepted an invitation to attend a university team tournament in Calgary in January, 1991. The University of Saskatchewan also formed a team and attended along with the U of A Tennis Centre team and the host University of Calgary. In addition to hosting University of Calgary and attending the annual tournament, the U of A Teams played several local matches - against the Royal Glenora, the U of A Junior Drill squad, and a Tennis Centre all-star team.

The original idea of the team was to provide a social and competitive outlet for tennis players at the university. Unless a player wishes to further his/her tennis by attending an American college on a scholarship, there are no training options available once the age for junior competition is passed. Having a team at the U of A means that local competitors who do not want to leave Edmonton or who are not good enough to receive a scholarship can still train and play with others in similar circumstances. Although the Athletics Department originally agreed to the team idea, they put restrictions on it when it became a reality. The Team has not been allowed to be called a University of Alberta team, nor use the names "Golden Bear" or "Panda", nor to officially represent the University. So, for the past few years, the teams have been called the University of Alberta Tennis Centre University Students Men's/Women's Tennis Team.

Because the university competitions are not official, the Team has remained very informal and social. Nonetheless, the calibre of play has risen each year. The men's tryouts usually attract between twenty and thirty hopefuls. Almost all of the players making the team in the last two years have held top 100 rankings provincially. Many are past members of the U of A Tennis Centre Junior Program. The team practises once a week for two hours under the guidance of the manager. A list of team members is included in Appendix E.

In 1990, Jon Chmilar, one of the team members, commented on the role of the team.

> I've been on the team now for two years. We do pretty well I think. We come out Thursday nights and do drills and play. I have a good time. Its a good break from school. It's only a couple of hours a week. Even if you are trying to get into medicine, as some of us are, you can still arrange for two hours. It could be more. I think most of the players on the team would welcome the opportunity to play more.
>
> It means quite a bit to us to have something organized because, going to university, we don't have that much time to play. It's great to have something set aside for us. I wouldn't play as much without a team. At practise I set up matches with people that I wouldn't usually see, so it adds on that way, too. The social contacts are important.

> I played in the competitions last year. They were great. I loved them. It was a good chance to play against different players from other schools...and just play somebody different. During the winter I would usually play against one or two people, but being on the team we get a variety of competition.
>
> In the future, maybe three or four years down the road, maybe we could get a tennis conference or something. Maybe even get sponsored by the University. That would be great. We have a start and a good base of players. This tournament we are going to in January shows that there are other universities with players that are interested in playing other teams.
>
> The addition of females is great. There are a lot of good women players that play at the university. It's good that they have the same chance we do.
>
> I really enjoy the team. We've got a good start. I hope we can make it even better. (Chmilar, 1990)

Jon finished his undergraduate degree in 1993-1994, his fifth year with the team. Kuen Cheung was also on the team that year. After graduating, he went on to Graduate School in the United States.

> I started tennis when I was fifteen and played at Riverbend. Through the [Greater Edmonton Tennis Association] Junior Circuit I bumped into some U of A junior tennis players. So I came by and picked up some information and signed up. Then my junior tennis career took off - for the next three years until I was out of juniors and into university.
> My first year of university was the first year of the U of A Tennis Centre Team. This is four years for me. I graduate this year.
>
> I don't have enough time for tennis and studying, so having a set time really helps. I work everything around tennis so I have my Thursday nights off and I come and play tennis. I wish it could be more, but I don't have time to squeeze it in. For me it suits. Then if I have time I'll hit - maybe one other time - on Sunday night. I play with team members usually. I see them around school. I see John every day in classes.

> If it was intercollegiate I would have made time to involved. We are making steps forward. The last couple of years it's always been Calgary. If we could get one more team...UBC?...then we'd be making progress. We have made progress! We've got a girls team this year. One step every year. In another five or six years...
> Tennis has been part of my life for six years - half of it at university. (Cheung, 1990)

Over the next few years, the Team became progressively stronger. The men were able to win at home, even over the powerful Calgary team. However, they were unable to win the annual tournament in Calgary. The women also improved in quality, and also quantity. By 1993, there were enough women to form a complete team of eight, making them equal to the men. In 1993-94, the U of A teams overcame all competition. Partly because Calgary was weaker due to graduations, the U of A men dominated their home match against Calgary, and this time were able to win the Western Intercollegiate Championships in Calgary by beating the Universities of Saskatchewan, Manitoba, and Calgary. (The University of British Columbia did not send a team in 1994, due to a loss of its main indoor facility.) The U of A women were able to defeat Calgary for the first time when they played in Edmonton in the fall of 1993. In January, 1994, they improved on their feat by beating Calgary - and Manitoba - to win the Western Canadian Intercollegiates.

Although there is still no official recognition or conference play, the U of A student's tennis team is in place and ready if acceptance is ever forthcoming. A proposal to have tennis included in the Canada West university sports was turned down in the spring of 1990. Dale Schulha, the Chairman of the Department of Athletics in 1990, pointed out the difficulty of expecting any changes in the intercollegiate sports format.

> At this point in time I can't see any new sports being added at this institution or in Canada West. Part of the problem is finances. We are having significant trouble making ends meet. I would love to expand but the reality is that we may be decreasing. We are just hoping to keep the teams we have. The University would like to be involved in the sport development business but we are not in that position at this time. (Schulha, 1990)

However, the current Athletic Director, Ian Reade, is part of a group in the Canada West Conference that is trying to create a second level of inter-university sports for teams that can no longer be supported by the University or for teams who are more competitive than the club system can handle. Tennis is one of the sports being considered for acceptance into this division. (Reade, 1993, 1994)

Special Events

The Tennis Centre was constructed with the goal of having nine quality courts that could be used to host international level play. In addition, one of the courts has stadium seating to accommodate about two thousand spectators. Having nine courts, enough to host a major event, and having spectator capability built in has allowed the Centre to be the site of some top international tennis. The first event hosted was the one for which the facility was constructed.

Universiade 1983

The Tennis Centre was constructed for the World Student Games in 1983. To test the facility and organization, there was a pre-competition event Friday June 17 to Sunday June 19. Although the organizers had trouble finding countries interested in sending teams, the event was considered a good "warm-up" for all involved. (Davis Cup by NEC, 1987. "Warm - up, 1983)

The main competition began July 4 and continued through July 10. Nearby "public" courts were recruited to serve as training or practice facilities. Malmo Community, Lansdowne Community and the Confederation courts were utilized. The indoor air support structure at the Royal Glenora Club was made available in case of major problems with rain. (FISU Technical Manual, 1983. p. 33.)

Over thirty countries sent tennis teams to the games. Teams were allowed to enter four players in each singles event and two team in each doubles event, but two of the singles and one of the doubles served as substitutes. (FISU p. 30)

The Tennis Centre clubhouse - locker rooms and lounge - were utilized by the athletes. The administration, volunteers, press, and equipment storage were all set up in trailers on the surrounding grounds. (Tennis Centre files)

Although the Games started the previous Friday, tennis did not begin competition until Monday July 4. The courts were scheduled for competitor use from about 9 am to 8 pm every day. Matches were best-of-three sets, except the men's singles and doubles finals which were the best-of-five. Tiebreaks were to be used in all sets except the final one which was played to conclusion, with a required margin of victory of two games. A third place match was played between the losing semi-finalists. (FISU p. 31, 34)

Final results were:

Men's Singles

Richard Gallien (US) d. Dan Goldie (US) 6-1, 4-6, 7-6

Women's Singles

Cecilia Fernandez (US) d. Olga Zaytseva (Soviet Union) 3-6, 6-1, 6-2

Men's Doubles

Jef Arons and John Sevely (US) d. Angelo Binaghi and Raimondo Bitti (Italy) 7-5, 4-6, 6-3, 5-7, 10-8

Women's Doubles
Jill Hetherington and Karen Dewis (Canada) d. Okamoto and Kimura (Japan) 6-3, 4-6, 9-7
Mixed Doubles
Jill Hetherington and Bill Jenkins d. Cornelia Dries and Jocken Settlemayer (West Germany) 7-6, 7-6

After the Games, the Tennis Centre was turned over to the Faculty of Physical Education at the University. A summer club was started and memberships were sold to university students, employees and the public. A graduate student was given the task of managing the facility. (Tennis Centre files)

Davis Cup

The next major event at the Tennis Centre was a Davis Cup tie (match). In 1987, in the American Zone playdowns, the Canadian Davis Cup team won two matches on the road. They first defeated Venezuela and then upset Peru in the quarter-finals to set up a semi-final match versus Ecuador at home in Canada. Before the second round was even completed, Stephen Black, President of Tennis Alberta, saw the possibility of a home site being needed for a third round match. As the Tennis Alberta representative, he spearheaded the proposal to host the event in Alberta at the U of A Tennis Centre. Due to a fortunate series of events that saw all other regions in Canada already holding major tennis events that summer, Tennis Canada awarded the home tie (match) to Alberta. (Tennis Centre files - Davis Cup)

In Alberta, the University of Alberta Tennis Centre was a logical choice to host the tie because, from the World Student Games, there was already a suitable facility including a stadium court and adjacent practice courts. The clubhouse could also be easily adapted for Davis Cup use.

The air support structure provided the extra room needed for administration, staff, volunteers, and media. The volunteer staff had already proven itself at the Student Games and many of the same individuals were willing to assist with Davis Cup.

Although negotiations began the previous year, most of the organizers did not truly believe that Edmonton had a realistic chance of hosting the Davis Cup. Hopes were raised when the Davis Cup team managed the necessary upset in Peru in mid-March. Planning and organization began immediately, but did not become serious until mid-April when the tie was officially awarded to the U of A Tennis Centre. By the end of April, the key volunteer staff were in place.

Minor construction to alter the site did not commence until the beginning of July and was concentrated on the ten days prior to the start of the tie. Signs were made, box seats constructed, and bleachers erected. Tents for hospitality were put up on the grassy areas around the clubhouse. Portable toilets were brought in. A television tower was erected for TSN television coverage. The air support structure was prepared with electrical and phone services and the designated areas for media, officials, and volunteers were sectioned off. The clubhouse was divided to separate the teams. (Tennis Centre files)

The Canadian team began arriving Thursday July 16, just over a week before the tie began. The team consisted of Grant Connell, Mark Greenan, Glenn Michibata, Andrew Sznajder, and Martin Wostenholme. They were accompanied by John Mcmanus, the Captain, and Robert Bettauer, the Assistant Captain. Canada was pinning much of its hopes on - and centring most of its promotion on - Martin Wostenholme, their top Davis Cup player. Unfortunately, just prior to coming to Edmonton, he broke his thumb in a "freak" basketball accident and was unable to compete.

The team from Ecuador began arriving on Sunday, July 19. The team was led by Captain Ricardo Ycaza. Team members were Martin Aguirre, Andres Gomez, Ernesto Lingen, Hugo Nunez, Axel Reich, and Raul Viver. Most of the attention was focused on Gomez, a perennial top twenty player who was near the peak of his career. In 1986, Gomez had finished in the top ten singles in the world rankings, and was the number one doubles player. Although he attended the camp, Ecuador's number two player, Viver, was not chosen to play because of an injury. (Tennis Centre files)

From the 19th to the 23rd of July, the teams used five courts a day for five to six hours a day for practices. The four indoor courts had been converted for Davis Cup use already, so club members had to be content with reduced court time and the opportunity to watch the team practice sessions. (Tennis Centre files)

Ticket sales were handled initially by Principal Savings. Tickets cost $10 per day or $23 for three days. Box seats were also available for $350 for 4 seats. When initial sales were disappointing, ticket retail sales expanded to local clubs and ticket outlets. In spite of the sales organizational problems, the stadium court - with seating of over two thousand - was almost sold out every day. (Tennis Centre files)

Matches began with opening ceremonies Friday, July 24 at noon. The Davis Cup tie is a best-of-five match format with two singles matches the first day, a doubles the second, and the reverse singles (with the original singles players switching opponents) on the third day. Matches at that time were best-of-five sets without tiebreaks. (Tennis Centre files)

In the first match, Andrew Sznajder defeated Hugo Nunez 8-6, 6-4, 8-6. Ecuador evened the score when Gomez defeated Michibata 6-1, 6-4, 6-2. In the doubles on Saturday, Ecuador took a 2-1 match lead, winning 7-5, 7-9, 6-4, 6-1. In the reverse singles, Michibata kept Canada's hopes alive by defeating Nunez 6-8, 6-3, 6-2, 6-2. Sznajder - and Canada - fell short, losing to Gomez 4-6, 6-4, 6-4, 5-7, 7-5. Ecuador won 3 matches to 2 to advance to the next round. (Tennis Centre files)

Throughout the tie, the weather cooperated beautifully. It was warm - even hot (thirty one degrees Celsius), and clear. A strong breeze may have affected the doubles play on Saturday, contributing to the problems Greenan had with overheads and serves. Nonetheless, the sunshine was perfect for the spectators and helped create an entertainment atmosphere by the last day. Throughout the tie, the fans went from being appreciative but quiet, to wildly excited and partisan. By the last match, the crowd was so deeply involved in the tennis that they became part of the show. Even today, over six years later, local tennis enthusiasts who witnessed the tie comment on the superb entertainment value of the matches. (Tennis Centre files)

Other

The Tennis Centre has also hosted some other major events such as the World Law Enforcement Games tennis, part of the Police Olympics in 1990. With its spectator seating, the Centre remains a potential site for any major tennis event that considers Edmonton as host. However, the indoor courts do not really provide conditions good enough for competitive tennis, and there are only five outdoor courts left, not really enough to host a large tournament in a short time.

A History of Tennis at the University of Alberta

Chapter 5

Conclusion

CONCLUSION

The early history of tennis at the University of Alberta closely parallelled the growth and development of tennis internationally and nationally. Almost from the first days of the University, tennis was a part of campus life. In the early 1900s, as tennis spread around the world, it found acceptance and popularity with the upper class students who populated most universities, including the University of Alberta. During the 1920s, "the Golden Age of Sports", tennis increased its number of participants by expanding into the middle class. With a captive audience and ample facilities, tennis flourished on campus. The University Tennis Club boomed; its fall tournament grew to over a hundred participants each year. Intercollegiate tennis was started and challenge matches were arranged with other universities almost every year.

However, tennis at the University of Alberta was not without its obstacles, the main one being the weather. With classes not beginning until October, many tennis events were not completed because of snow. The short season made it difficult to have a program for tennis training at the University. Most of the successful players played and trained elsewhere - at local public clubs.

The interest in, and success of, tennis continued through the 1930s, but stalled during World War II. Although it was still very popular after the War, tennis never seemed to regain its importance on campus and became relegated to the ranks of minor sport. It was, however, during this time that tennis was included, for the first time, in the University curriculum.

The later history of tennis at the University of

Alberta diverged from the national and international trends and, therefore, differs noticeablely from that of the first half. During the late 1960s, when tennis "boomed" around the world, it was at its lowest level ever at the University of Alberta. The number of courts on campus on campus had decreased dramatically. The intercollegiate teams had been dropped. The local competitive focus - the Tennis Club tournament - was joined and then eclipsed by the Campus Recreation university intramural event. Tennis was even absent from the academic Physical Education curriculum for a few years.

Although there were attempts to keep tennis alive at the University, it remained without a focus until the construction of the University of Alberta Tennis Centre in 1983. The Tennis Centre took over many of the functions of the past tennis organizations on campus. It offered club memberships, recreational play, instruction, tournaments, some of the intramurals, university teams and the occasional special event. Undoubtedly, the Tennis Centre and its staff have been able to accomplish many things that would have been difficult to do in the traditional university tennis format. However, the Tennis Centre is off-campus and can not provide the same visible profile that tennis enjoyed in the past. The lack of facilities on the campus has certainly been one of the factors in the decline of University tennis.

In spite of the decrease in participation, the future of tennis at the University looks encouraging. The Physical Education and Sport Studies tennis activity classes are popular and always full. Campus Recreation has just received a vote of confidence from a student referendum that approved fees to support programs such as intramural tennis tournaments. The Non-Credit Instruction is still well received with several group lesson sessions filling each year. Although almost no courts remain on campus, the Tennis

Centre provides a high quality facility for those who are willing to seek out the off-campus location. The Centre's junior tennis program has received national recognition for its excellence. The Tennis Centre intercollegiate Men's and Women's teams won the Western Collegiate Championships this year, and tennis may be on the verge of some form of official conference acceptance. With the exception of being overcrowded, the club at the Centre has been functioning well, and has received continued support from the Faculty of Physical Education and Recreation. However, attempts to alleviate the crowding by expanding the Tennis Centre have been turned down by the University administration.

The Tennis Centre is now attempting to keep the sport active in the University and Edmonton tennis communities. Although tennis is becoming increasingly popular internationally, in North America it has suffered a significant decrease in participation. For the first time ever, in 1993-94, the Tennis Centre did not sell all of its winter memberships. This provides a sharp contrast to the years when hundreds of names were recorded on membership waiting lists. Part of the explanation may be the general North American trend, but other reasons are just as significant. The University's failure to react to the indoor tennis demand created discontent in the tennis community. Many Tennis Centre members became dissatisfied with the overcrowded conditions and many other non-member players grew tired of waiting for memberships to become available.

The general decline in tennis at the University of Alberta may also have been the result of the lack of a strong supporter. The University has frequently been without an influential person who considered tennis to be one of his/her main interests. A champion of the cause may have prevented the loss of the intervarsity teams, the intramural event, the campus courts, the tennis courses, and valuable information.

The loss of information made the preparation of this thesis more difficult than expected. The research depended on two types of information collection. The author attempted to build a base of factual chronological information from reliable University sources. Then, he tried to enhance the data with personal recollections of the participants. Neither method was completely successful.

Either, much of the original information was not recorded, or as the years passed, much of it was not considered important enough to be saved by the University departments. Although there were several University departments involved, the lack of an interested individual who was in charge meant that much of the desired information has slipped through the system. Hard evidence about events such as the installation and removal of courts was often missing from the official records. Retrieval of the facts that did exist also proved difficult, largely because of the attitude of the University staff who were in charge of the appropriate areas. Most of the individuals had little interest in assisting with the recovery of the information.

Obtaining verbal information from the University staff proved to be much easier. However, it proved to be much less reliable. Data that was offered as "facts" often contradicted other "facts". Sometimes authorities even contradicted themselves. The factual information, therefore, proved to be scarce, and locating even the most straightforward material was laborious. Even determining simple matters such as who maintains the courts was difficult because no one would admit to the responsibility.

Acquiring information from the tennis community was not a problem. Individuals proved to be more than willing to share stories of their playing days. Furthermore, as the author spoke with former players, they often recommended others who would be willing to help and a network was formed and expanded. Occasionally, the author was even approached by former players who volunteered information because they had heard that tennis history was being collected. Unfortunately, while the accomplishments and adventures seemed to improve with age, the accuracy of the memories did not. Once again, stories were not always reliable and often conflicted with other reports. Whenever possible, the author sought corroborating evidence for each detail.

Because of the difficulty in obtaining solid data, this thesis is not as complete as the author had hoped it might be. Although there are still questions left unanswered and there are still some gaps in the chronological history, this compilation of information sheds some light on the tradition that tennis has had at the University of Alberta. Undoubtedly, more information will come to light after this thesis is completed and circulated. It will present another researcher at another time an opportunity to complete the story of tennis at the University of Alberta.

This thesis might also provide a comparison for other studies of tennis at other universities, or it could become a base to expand into the Edmonton or Alberta tennis communities.

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Appendices

APPENDIX A
HISTORY OF INTERNATIONAL TENNIS

The History of International Tennis

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1. Origins of Tennis - Before 1873
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HISTORY OF INTERNATIONAL TENNIS

Origins of Tennis - before 1873

Like many sports, tennis has a popular myth of creation: Walter Clopton Wingfield supposedly invented the game in 1873. In truth, however, tennis is an adaptation of ancient games.

The earliest origins of tennis are lost in history, but evidence of tennis-related sports can be found in literature centuries old. Ball projection games were common in many early civilizations.

The direct ancestor of tennis, in a form that could be recognized today, surfaced in France in the thirteenth century as a game called "jeu de paume" (game of the palm). It possibly reached France with the Saracen (Moorish) invasion. The game was played with the hand and a tightly wound cloth ball. It gained popularity in the monastery courtyards so quickly that in 1245 the archbishop of Rouen prohibited priests from playing because they were neglecting their other duties.

The game's popularity soon spread to royalty. During the Renaissance (c.1400 - 1600) tennis became a game of the court, "fit for gentlemen". In contrast with the combative games of the medieval tournaments, jeu de paume provided more "civilized" opportunities for the males to display their physical prowess and for the females to exhibit their feminine charm. Many variations of the game were tried, including some with bats, paddles, and racquets. During this time, there are frequent references to tennis in the literary works of Erasmus, Shakespeare, Sir Thomas More, Cellini, Rabelais, Montaigne, Castiglione, and others.

Virtually every French king in the sixteenth century played the game. Francis I had an indoor tennis court built on his royal yacht. His successor, Henry II, ordered the building of tennis courts at the Louvre, where he played daily. In 1571, King Charles IX granted a charter to a guild of tennis players and racquet makers in Paris, designating the sport as "one of the most honourable, worthy and healthy exercises which princes, peers, gentlemen and other distinguished persons can undertake." The game spread rapidly throughout the courtyards of Europe.

Jeu de paume probably reached England around 1352 when Edward III had a court built at his palace. It was in England that the first mention of the name "tennis" was made. "Tenez" (meaning 'Here you go! Play') was called before each point of play. The game's place as the international "sport of kings" was also recognized by the English version of the name for the sport -"royal" or "real tennis". The kings and gentlemen in England were as devoted to the game as the French were. Henry VIII owned seven racquets and was an avid player. Shortly after he received Hampton Court as a "gift" from Cardinal Thomas Wolsey, Henry had a royal tennis court erected there - the oldest in the world still in use. At the Palace of Westminster, he supervised the construction of four new courts, two indoor and two outdoor. He played all comers - his court, merchants, French hostages, and royal visitors. In 1523 he joined Charles V, the Emperor of the Holy Roman Empire, in a doubles match against his princes of Orange and Brandenburg. The other long-reigning Tudor monarch, Queen Elizabeth, refrained from playing tennis but loved to watch matches involving the leading nobles of the realm.

Tennis ball composition changed significantly over time and varied greatly at any given time. Originally, they were probably just tightly wrapped rags, but eventually the cloth core was tightly wound in twine. At the height of "real tennis" popularity, according to custom, the balls were made of leather casings stuffed with feathers, human hair, or wool. In fact, makers of tennis balls stuffed them with whatever was at hand, causing patrons to complain bitterly of the uneven quality.

To protect themselves from injury, players initially wrapped their hands with cloth or leather. Use of padded mitts or gloves also become common. In the fourteenth century in one version of the game, a "battoir", an instrument shaped like a canoe paddle, was introduced to project the ball. Later the handle was reduced, and the wooden center became parchment or a webbing before finally settling on gut (twisted animal intestine) strings. Although mentioned by Chaucer and a few writers in the fifteenth century, racquets did not become widely used until the sixteenth century. The transition was not sudden; there are reports of matches where opponents had the option of playing with hand or racquet. Gradually, the advantages of racquets for projecting the ball won out. Although variations of the common shape were frequently seen, racquets were generally made of one strip of wood bent into the paddle shape. (It was only in the 1920s, that manufacturers found that wood laminations improved strength, appearance, durability, and playability.)

Worse than the variations in equipment was the confusion caused by the many different rules in effect in each country. Rules and styles of play often differed from town to town. This confusing situation prompted a monk from Farrara, Antonio Scaino da Salo, to publish a treatise on "real tennis" in 1555. Much of the text was a philosophical assertion of tennis as being "the most appropriate sport for the man of letters," but Scaino's intention was practical as well. He established a rudimentary set of rules, a standard court size, a scoring system, and some principles of etiquette for the players. Soon translated into most European languages, the treatise was revised and expanded in 1592, and published again in 1632.

Scaino also described the varieties of tennis played around Europe, and commented that although the sport was still primarily associated with monarchs and nobles playing on indoor courts with a complex scoring system, it also appealed to merchants, students, and artisans. Although they could not afford the indoor courts of real tennis, even the middle and lower classes were interested in tennis and developed variations of the sport. Versions of the game moved out of the courtyards to the outdoors. However, the popularity of tennis once again caused problems. In 1388, Edward IV banned tennis because the people were abandoning archery for the new sport. In France, Charles V also banned tennis to prevent neglect of job and family. Nonetheless, tennis continued to prosper. By 1600, every major town in France had several courts. Paris alone had about two hundred and fifty indoor courts and more than a thousand outdoor courts. A Venetian ambassador remarked "the French are born with racquets in their hands." Gambling became involved, causing tennis to be banned in France once again in the early 1600s. (The term "stake money" refers to stacking coins beside the netpost or stake.)

From this peak of popularity, real tennis declined rapidly. Indoor courts proved to be expensive to build and maintain. In the early seventeenth century, many owners of courts in both England and France found it more profitable to rent them as theatres for plays and concerts, or as arenas for boxing, wrestling, and acrobatics. By the mid-seventeenth century, tennis was a game once again almost totally divorced from the masses. By 1700 there were only ten tennis courts still in use in Paris. In England, Charles II led a short lived tennis revival, but his successors lacked his enthusiasm for the game and it once again declined. Its brief moment of widespread popularity dulled its mystique as an exclusive royal sport, and even its appeal to the upper classes was greatly diminished. (Although the game of real tennis still exists today, it is confined to a couple of hundred courts worldwide.)

For the swelling middle class, especially in England, less expensive and more practical versions of real tennis held greater appeal. Related games - court tennis, racquets, field tennis, squash, fives, and badminton - were all developed and played by various components of society. Outdoor experiments, such as "la longue paume" in France, and "field tennis" in England, were generally unsatisfactory because the ball which was made of leather, canvas, and cork would not bounce on grass the way it did on stone or wood floors in courtyards. It was not until the nineteenth century when the first rubber balls were introduced that this obstacle was overcome. Starting about 1830, numerous attempts were once again made to adapt the ideas of royal tennis to the outdoors. As early as 1858, Harry Gem devised a game similar to real tennis but played outdoors with a rubber ball. The game was even popular enough that a club was formed at Leamington Spa in 1872. In December, 1873, an English Army officer, Major Walter Clopton Wingfield, introduced a similar game to a Welsh garden party. The activity was a success and Wingfield followed up by patenting the game in 1874. He became the modern "inventor" of lawn tennis.

Sphairistike - 1873 to 1877

Victorian England in the last half of the nineteenth century was the home of an emerging middle class. For the first time, large numbers of people had the time and money for recreational pursuits that were formerly reserved for the upper class. Garden parties provided an opportunity to display the newly acquired luxuries of wealth and time, and became important leisure activities for the purposes of visiting and courtship.

At this time the dominant recreational philosophy in the Western world was Muscular Christianity with its belief that good citizens could be created through sports. To suit their new position in society, the middle class needed some appropriate, tasteful activities - less expensive than the horses and yachts needed for the upper class pursuits of fox hunting and sailing, and less violent than the lower class sports such as football. Cricket and croquet were both indulged in, but the space required for cricket was too great for most yards and croquet was very tedious for the young.

The time was right for a new activity. To allow for socializing, the game had to be suitable for active gentleman, but still enable women to participate. Preferably, it would be outdoors. It should be relatively inexpensive, with not too much equipment. It should be small enough to set up in a yard, and portable, if possible. And the game had to be playable by participants in full Victorian garden party dress.

Everyday Victorian dress required almost formal attire. In public, women wore multi-layered, full length dresses with high necklines and tightly corsetted waists. A hat or bonnet, sometimes veiled, and leather dress shoes were also worn. Men wore leather dress shoes, trousers, long sleeve shirts, and usually a suit coat with tie.

Although many individuals made attempts to transfer the game of real tennis from indoors to outdoors, most of the credit for being the inventor of lawn tennis is now erroneously given to one man, Major Walter Clopton Wingfield. In truth, however, Wingfield deserves acknowledgement for recognizing the evolution of the sport and realizing that he could commercially capitalize on it. Wingfield took a combination of all the elements of the various racquet sports, designed a court, drew up rules, and then patented it. He introduced it at an upper class garden party in Wales. The new game, called "sphairistike" (from the Greek word meaning "ball game") featured wooden racquets strung with gut strings, a five foot high net, an hourglass shaped court, an uncovered rubber ball, and a rule book - all of which Wingfield marketed in boxed sets.

The new game suited the times and met all the criteria for success. The patenting of "Sticky", as sphairistike was popularly called, marked the beginning of the "re-popularization" of tennis.

The goal of the social tennis activity was simply to hit the ball and keep it in play. Serves were delivered underhand. A high net prevented aggressive strokes. The restrictive party dress code prevented vigourous movement. The steadiest player was the winner.

As its popularity increased over the next two years, the new game underwent controversial experimentation. Many people declined to purchase Wingfield's kit and simply constructed sets for their own croquet lawn using their own variations of equipment and rules. Within a year of patenting sphairistike, Wingfield saw the need to modify his own rules and dimensions. The net, the court, the rules, and the scoring all were modified. In 1875, the Marylebone Cricket Club, the governing body of real tennis, cricket, croquet and rackets, convened a public meeting for the purpose of standardizing the rules of the new game. The court became rectangular with a lower net, and a four point scoring system was introduced. Although the changes were not binding and local variations still existed, play was attempted with altered rules and a new name - lawn tennis.

Also at this time, in an attempt to solve its financial difficulties, the All England Croquet Club at Wimbledon introduced tennis and badminton into club activities. Tennis proved to be popular and immediately helped the club recover financially, causing the club to include "Tennis" in its name two years later. Prior to play at the first national championship at their club in Wimbledon on July 9 - 19, 1877, members of the All England Club took over administration of the sport and revised the revised rules. These rules, with only minor alterations, are still governing the sport today.

The first Wimbledon tournament had only one event - Men's Singles. There were twenty-two competitors. The winner, Spencer W. Gore, received a prize worth twelve guineas and a Challenge Cup trophy. Although only two hundred spectators watched a rain delayed final, the event was considered successful enough that the Club planned to hold another event the next year.

Within just four years, tennis had changed from a leisurely garden party pastime into a competitive activity. From this point on, the history of tennis became the history of competitive tennis.

The Growth of Lawn Tennis 1877 - 1919

In the first few years, the champions at Wimbledon were usually successful players of other racquet sports who transferred their skills to the outdoor court. Tennis was still considered more of a monotonous social game than an active competitive sport. However, as the experiments with game strategies caught up with the rule changes, tennis became more complex. Spencer Gore won the first Wimbledon by rushing forward to volley balls at the net before they bounced. The second champion won the following year by discovering the lob, for which Gore had no answer. In 1878, the overhead serve was introduced and the overhead smash followed. Strokes hit with spin became prominent in 1880.

Although the All England Tournament at Wimbledon started with Men's Singles as the only event, the next thirty six years saw the addition of Men's Doubles, Women's Singles and Doubles, as well as Mixed Doubles. In 1880, the Men's Doubles championship, which had been introduced a year earlier at Oxford (and was moved to Wimbledon in 1884), was won by the Renshaw twins - William and Ernest - who dominated tennis in England for the next ten years, attracting considerable attention to the sport. During the decade, tennis changed from a social activity to a sport. The first rankings were introduced in 1881. Crowds - and revenues - at Wimbledon steadily increased. In 1885, over three thousand five hundred spectators were attracted to the final at the All England Club.

Although their social participation existed from the beginning, women were not initially allowed to compete in tournaments. The 1880s, however, saw the rise of women's tennis to competitive stature. The Irish Championships led the way with a women's singles event in 1879. Other tournaments soon followed, with Wimbledon joining the movement in 1884. From an entry of thirteen, Maud Watson became the tournament's first female champion. Three years later, at the age of fifteen - the youngest Wimbledon champion ever, Miss Lottie Dodd won her first of five All England Championships. Her attacking game attracted a following for women's tennis and established it as a legitimate competitive event. She was followed by a series of repeat winners. By the time World War 1 interrupted play, there had been thirty-one women's championships and only ten ladies had won the title, all but one of them British.

One of the reasons for so many repeat champions was the tournament format. The champion of the previous year retained his/her title until all other competitors had played off the following year. Then, the past champion would be confronted by the best of the challengers in what was called the Challenge Round. At Wimbledon, the Challenge Round survived until the 1922 championships after which the previous champion was included in the elimination draw each year. (The Challenge system was eliminated in 1912 in the United States.)

To end the 1800s, two more brother stars emerged in England to follow the Renshaw twins. Reggie and Laurie Doherty helped turn tennis into an international sport. In addition to dominating the singles and doubles at Wimbledon for ten years beginning in 1897, and they also won several titles around Europe and in the United States. The Dohertys became international sporting heroes and helped to firmly establish the game's popularity wherever they played. By 1911, the Men's Singles draw at Wimbledon had increased to over one hundred entries.

Although long pants and dresses were still required, the clothes associated with tennis became more practical as the sport became more aggressive and competitive. In 1905, May Sutton caused a stir by rolling up her long sleeves. All white outfits became fashionable towards the end of the nineteenth century, and it was stipulated by the All England Club that only whites could be worn on court.

The Marylebone Cricket Club, that drew up a uniform set of rules for tennis in 1875, had no other direct connections with the sport. After they had gradually withdrawn from tennis, the All England Club at Wimbledon was considered to be the governing authority, having rewritten the rule book in 1877. However, in 1888, duties were willingly relinquished to the newly formed Lawn Tennis Association, a group of democratically organized tennis clubs in England. William Renshaw served as its first President.

Although England was firmly established as the center of the administration of tennis, the game spread throughout the British Isles. County tournaments were common. Indoor championships were held. Inter-university matches started. Scotland and Ireland both established championships.

The game also spread further abroad. The British Empire stretched all around the world in the nineteenth century, but even where it did not have colonies, England had trading partners, contacts, or influence. Being a dominant naval power meant that England also had the ability to transport their products, people and ideas quickly. The middle class, which was responsible for the explosive growth of tennis in Britain, also had the wealth, time and reasons to travel. Whether they travelled for business or pleasure, the English middle class took their culture with them. This was especially true of the military which was often stationed in large groups for long periods of time in many widely spread locations. The officers, primarily active young men from well-to-do backgrounds, helped the transported British culture to become established in each location. Aided by the size and nature of the British Empire, the members of the British middle class left their culture wherever they touched around the globe. The quick spreading of tennis through the Western World laid the foundations for the solid international status that tennis enjoys today, just over one hundred years later.

France had experimented with many forms of racquet sports and immediately adopted the new game, especially in the south where many wealthy English families holidayed and played. The first French Championship was held in 1891 but they remained closed to foreigners until 1925. One French player, Max Decugis who had learned his tennis in England, won thirty-six major championship titles, some of them international.

Tennis in Italy started at the British colony in Bordighera in 1878. The Italians soon took to tennis with enthusiasm. By 1898, there were over seven hundred courts, although only a few were composed of grass. National championships began in 1894 but ceased four years later, until the Italian Tennis Federation was formed in 1910.

British enthusiasts also laid the first courts in Germany in 1877. The first National Championships for men were in 1892, with women joining in four years later. Prior to World War I, the German championships were popular with European players. Only one German player, Otto Foitzheim, had international success, reaching the Wimbledon final in 1914.

Tennis continued to spread throughout Europe. The Swedish Crown Prince returned home from England as a keen competitor in 1879. Czechoslovakia, which had a long royal tennis history, quickly adopted the new outdoor sport in the 1880s. In Romania, clubs were formed in 1898. Tennis was introduced into Russia in 1890.

Being part of the British Empire ensured that tennis became part of the culture in India and South Africa where the first national championships were held in 1885 and 1891 respectively. Australia also readily took to tennis. The first State championships were held in Victoria in 1880, and by 1895, every state had their own. A visit from Dr. W.V. Eaves of England in 1891 did much to stimulate interest and standardize the rules between states. The Australian Championships were first played in 1905. The growth of quality tennis internationally was demonstrated by the rise of Norman Brookes and Anthony Wilding. Brookes, from Australia, was the first overseas challenger to win the men's singles at Wimbledon, breaking a streak of thirty years of champions from England and Ireland. (Only two Englishmen have won since.) Wilding, from New Zealand, attended Cambridge and managed to win the Wimbledon title four times. In total Brookes and Wilding captured six Wimbledon singles championships, as well as the only two Wimbledon doubles they played together. Representing Australasia (the countries played together until 1923), they also won four of five Davis Cup attempts.

Tennis reached North America early. During a vacation to Bermuda in 1874, Miss Mary Ewing Outerbridge witnessed tennis being played by British military officers. She purchased a kit, and brought it back to the Staten Island Cricket and Baseball Club in the United States. Within a few years, tennis was being played in many New England states. Although the first tournament was in 1876, an open event was not held until 1880. It was won by an English player who happened to be in the United States.

Tournaments became common but the rules were in a state of confusion. In 1881, when the clubs in the Eastern United States met to discuss the rules, they agreed to form the United States Lawn Tennis Association (seven years prior to the Lawn Tennis Association in Britain) and adopted the All England rules and format. That year, the first official national championship - held at Newport Casino, sponsored by the USLTA and restricted to American citizens - was won by Richard Sears. Sears went on to win the title seven consecutive years. Foreign players were not allowed to compete until 1884. Women's events first started in the US in 1887 and were recognized by the USLTA two years later. Mabel Cahill (1892, from Ireland) and Laurie Doherty (1903, from England) became the first foreign winners. Between 1901 and 1911, William A. Larned equalled Sears record of seven Men's Singles titles, but did not win them consecutively. He might have improved on the record but he declined to enter any more tournaments when the Challenge Round was abolished in 1912.

In the early 1900s, most Americans were still not competing frequently outside the United States. Internationally, Beals Wright was the best known American at this time. He was followed by Maurice McLoughlin, nicknamed "the California Comet", for his overpowering serve and his short career. McLoughlin won the US championships twice (1912, 1913) but never succeeded at Wimbledon. The top female American was Miss May Sutton who won the US women's singles in 1904 at the age of sixteen, and a year later, became the first overseas player to win Wimbledon. She repeated as Wimbledon champion in 1907 (which was the first year that both singles titles went to foreign players. Australian Norman Brookes won the men's).

Early on, the United States women's title changed hands more often than the Wimbledon title. However, in the twenty years beginning in 1909, there were only four winners - Mrs. Hazel Wightman (4), Mrs. Mary Browne (3), Mrs. Molla Mallory (7), and Miss Helen Wills (6).

The popularity of tennis in the United States during this period is indicated by the increase in competitors and competitions. In 1885, the USLTA authorized sectional championships. The national indoor championships began in 1898 and the clay court championships in 1910. As part of a USLTA program of tennis development, junior championships were added in 1916. In 1915, the US championships left Newport Casino for the more spacious West Side Tennis Club at Forest Hills.

Exchange matches between countries began during the 1880s and '90s and encouraged the spread of the sport. In general, England demonstrated superiority but international exposure helped the United States competitors close the gap. Dwight Davis, an American and a varsity team member from Harvard, was impressed with the tennis that he saw being played in England and suggested a challenge match between the United States and Britain. He pursued the idea until the English accepted. Davis donated a large cup-shaped trophy and played on the first US team. This was the start of the men's international team competition, commonly known as the Davis Cup. The United States won the first Davis Cup tie (match) in Boston in 1900, and again in 1902 in New York. Britain finally took the Cup home with them in 1903. Belgium and France entered the pursuit for the Davis Cup in 1904, and were joined by Australasia and Austria in 1905. Germany, Canada, and South Africa were involved by 1913.

Tennis was also included in the first modern Olympics in 1896, and every following Games until 1924. However, the Olympics never seemed to attract much attention from the international tennis community. The first gold medallist - J.P. Boland - was an English tourist who just happened to be in Greece so he purchased a racquet and participated. The ladies event in 1908 produced more defaults than matches. Tennis continued as an Olympic sport until after World War I, but the involvement never added significantly to the profile of the game.

The growth of tennis was reflected in the participation at Wimbledon. Although Wimbledon began as a national championship, it eventually attracted players from around the world. In 1905, it hosted players from at least seven countries and the Women's Singles was won by the American May Sutton (who was, however, British born). Two years later, the Men's title was won by an Australian, Norman Brookes. From that time on, English winners of their own national titles were rare.

Tennis reached full international status in March 1913 when the Federation International de Lawn Tennis (the International Lawn Tennis Federation) was formed in Paris and assumed international governing responsibilities from the Lawn Tennis Association in Britain. National associations from thirteen countries were original members. Although an American was the main promoter of the idea, the US did not join until after World War I. The early organization into regional, national, and international organizations enabled the fast growing sport of tennis to be standardized throughout the world.

World War I slowed down most of the sporting activities around the world. Although tennis did not stop completely, most of its competitions were reduced in size and importance. Many of the competitors were involved in the military and travel was greatly restricted, so tennis was usually limited to less serious, local events.

Tennis Grows Up - 1919 to 1939

In its first forty years, tennis established itself among international sports. Its rules were secure, its administration was in place, and its major events were established. Stability helped to allow the focus of the sport to shift to the players. Tennis responded with a succession of interesting and often contrasting characters. The period produced great stars such as Suzanne Lenglen, Alice Marble, Helen Wills, Fred Perry, Don Budge, Bill Tilden, and the Four Musketeers. The celebrities captured the imagination of the media and public, and drew large crowds wherever they played. This era is sometimes referred to as the "Golden Age of Tennis".

The inter-war years started with flamboyant personalities. Suzanne Lenglen of France combined playing skill and an extroverted personality to attract widespread attention to the women's game. Lenglen dominated tennis in Europe, winning all the major events including the Olympics. She went eight years with only one loss, frequently winning tournaments without the loss of a set, occasionally without the loss of a game. Her only "failure" was in America where she defaulted due to illness in the only match she ever played in the US championships. Eventually her flamboyant personality clashed with the officials at Wimbledon, turning the fans against her. Shortly after, she turned professional for a brief period.

The equivalent personality in the men's game was that of the American Bill Tilden. Tilden taught himself to be a very versatile player with control of all strokes. Although he did not break into the world tennis scene until 1920 when he was twenty-seven years old, he dominated men's tennis for ten years. He won Wimbledon titles ten years apart, with seven US titles in between, and had an outstanding Davis Cup record. Like Lenglen, he had a flair for theatrics and often made matches closer than they needed to be. Unlike Lenglen, Tilden extended his career over a long period. In 1931, he turned professional and continued to play for many years.

For all their quirks and eccentricities, the prima donnas in the 1920s helped to make tennis a popular spectator sport. After Lenglen, women's tennis was dominated by US women. Between the wars, they won as many titles as all other nations combined.

Lenglen's immediate successor was Helen Wills-Moody of the United States who won the women's singles at Wimbledon eight times, the French four times and the US seven times. For six years, Helen Wills-Moody did not even lose a set in singles. Her lack of theatrics on court contrasted with Lenglen's style and earned her the nick name "Poker Face".

Although Helen Wills-Moody's success in singles was amazing, her equivalent in doubles was the American Elizabeth "Bunny" Ryan. She travelled regularly to tournaments whenever and wherever they were held. Between 1914 and 1934, Ryan only failed to win a women's or mixed doubles title at Wimbledon on two occasions, collecting nineteen in all.

Prior to World War II, another American, Alice Marble, moved to the top of the ladies' game. She used an aggressive attacking style to dominate singles and doubles play. When World War II suspended most of the major events, Marble turned professional and toured North America.

The men's game was much more international than the women's. The US men, led initially by Tilden, were equalled by the French, but there were also challengers from Germany, Australia, England, and Czechoslovakia. The Australians had some success in the early 1920s. Shortly after this, a new set of challengers for Tilden appeared on the world scene - from France this time. Jean Borotra, Henri Cochet, Rene Lacoste, and Jacques "Toto" Brugnon, known as "the Four Musketeers", won six of the next eight Wimbledons, shared five doubles titles and won the Davis Cup for France six years in succession. Except for the occasional encounter with Bill Tilden, their domination was not challenged in

Europe until the 1930s when Britain produced its own hero, Fred Perry, who won Wimbledon three years (and was the last British men's singles champion). Perry was the first to win all four major titles (Wimbledon, US, French, Australian), but did not hold all the championships at the same time. That feat was accomplished by the American, Don Budge, in 1938 , two years after Perry had turned professional. From the fall of 1936, Budge began two years of invincibility, leading up to his Grand Slam, after which he, too, turned professional.

Between the wars, procedures for tournaments became standardized. The Challenge Round that the US eliminated in 1912 was also abolished at Wimbledon in 1922. Seeding (placing highly ranked players in the draw so that they will not meet each other in the early rounds) was experimented with in the United States in 1922 before being tested at Wimbledon from 1924 to 1927 when it was fully adopted.

The popularity of tennis forced other changes to be made. At the Wimbledon Championships, which resumed in 1919, the demand for seats was so heavy that a ballot had to be introduced to distribute tickets. In 1920, competitors were turned away for the first time when the entries exceeded one hundred twenty-eight. It became clear that the All England Club would have to find a new and larger home. In 1922, the championships were held for the first time at their present address. Although at the time some thought the new facility was too ambitious, it provided for the long term expansion of space for playing and spectating. In 1932, attendance at Wimbledon passed two hundred thousand. (The present Centre Court holds fifteen thousand spectators, and tournament crowds reach three hundred thousand.)

From 1921 to 1923, the US championships briefly abandoned Forest Hills (for Philadelphia) while a new stadium was being built. The French championships became open to international players in 1925, and the Four Musketeer's French Davis Cup victories provided the impetus to build a permanent stadium - Roland Garros, where the French Open is still played today.

The popularity of tennis continued to rise. The media provided daily international results for their audiences. The first live radio broadcast of a tennis match was made at Wimbledon in 1927. The first television coverage was in 1937, (but it did not become daily until after WW II).

Although the difficult economic times of the depression caused a few clubs to fail, they also opened new opportunities. As part of Roosevelt's New Deal in the United States, many new public courts were constructed. For the first time, tennis was available outside private clubs, thus opening up the sport to a new sector of society (providing they could afford the equipment).

Clothing became progressively more practical, especially for the women. Dresses became much looser and less restrictive. Bustles and petticoats were gone, and hats became optional. Up until World War I the dresses remained ankle length with high necklines, but thereafter, with the influence of Lenglen, the hemlines became shorter, corsets were abandoned, and tight waistlines went with them. Long pants remained in vogue for men until 1933 when Bunny Austin, a leading British player, played wearing knee length short pants. (The last Wimbledon winner to wear long trousers was the Frenchman Yvon Petra in 1946.)

After World War I, tennis was played in the Antwerp Olympics in 1920 and in Paris in 1924, but subsequent differences over the definition of amateurism brought an end to lawn tennis as an Olympic sport. The potential for earning money from tennis had become evident, but the traditional belief that sport could only be pure if it was played for its own sake kept professionalism in the background. However, an American businessman, C.C.(Cash and Carry) Pyle, realized that tennis could attract large crowds. In 1926, Pyle signed up some of the top amateurs of the day, including the legendary Suzanne Lenglen, and organized a nationwide tour of the United States. The tour was a great success and between then and World War II a number of similar tours were organized. Every year or two, large contracts were used to entice the top amateur players onto the tour to challenge the professional champions. They played a series of exhibition events across the country and occasionally into Europe. The conservative Tennis Associations would not allow the pros to compete in the sanctioned tournaments, nor were the amateurs allowed to play with the pros. A serious attempt to solve the rift was never made. However, the loss of top talent who turned professional continued to grow.

Between the wars, tennis grew up and became a major international sporting interest. The personalities in tennis attracted media and public attention to the sport and dramatically increased its popularity. Whether it was played by amateurs or professionals, the possibility of tennis being the major commitment in one's life was now a reality.

Tennis Gets Serious - 1939 to 1967

Although tennis in the United States continued almost uninterrupted during the Second World War, it ceased in most other parts of the world. The All England Club was used as a civil defence centre. A bomb demolished part of the Wimbledon stands. After the war, Japan and Germany were both expelled from the International Tennis Federation but were reinstated by 1951.

The US and Australia were the dominant forces in men's international tennis and almost made Davis Cup a closed competition. Between 1946 and 1959, every Davis Cup challenge round was between these two countries. Nonetheless, the event continued to grow. By 1967, there were sixty-two nations involved and it was becoming increasingly difficult to fit the ties into a very full international calendar.

After the Frenchman Yvon Petra won the Men's Singles at Wimbledon in 1946 (the first year the championships were held after the war), the title went to Americans five years in succession. In 1947, it was Jack Kramer, who lost only one set in singles and none in doubles. Kramer, also a two-time US singles winner, turned professional to capitalize on his success. In the United States, Kramer was followed by R. "Pancho" Gonzalez, who also turned professional, but did so before he had a chance to make an impact internationally. Kramer and Gonzalez were followed by a series of excellent American players - Bob Falkenburg, Ted Schroeder, Budge Patty, Dick Savitt, Vic Seixas, Tony Trabert, and Chuck McKinley. The American stranglehold on the Wimbledon and US titles was finally broken by an Australian, Frank Sedgeman, in 1951-52. He led a string of Australian greats that included Ken Rosewall, Lew Hoad, Rod Laver, Ashley Cooper, Neale Fraser, Mal Anderson and Roy Emerson. In 1962, Laver won all four major singles titles - the Grand Slam - plus Italy and Germany, plus all his Davis Cup matches. He then turned professional, excluding himself from collecting more major titles.

The United States and Australia continued to produce the majority of the top male players in the tennis world. The only non-US/Australian men to have any impact on the Wimbledon and US titles were Petra, ex-Czech Jaroslav Drobny playing for Egypt (Wimbledon 1954), Alex Olmedo (born in Peru but living in the United States, won Wimbledon 1959), Mexican Rafael Osuna (US 1963) and Spaniard Manuel Santana (US 1965, Wimbledon 1966).

The American women were even more dominant than the men. In Wightman Cup competition against the British (who were a distant number two), the Americans lost only two of seventy matches in the next ten years. Their aggressive games also dominated Wimbledon and the US championships, winning thirteen of each in succession from 1946, and all but a couple of the French championships. Pauline Betz, Margaret Osbourne, Louise Brough, Doris Hart, Shirley Fry and Alice Marble collected most of the international titles. At Forest Hills in 1951, the winner was sixteen year old Maureen "Little Mo" Connelly. In the next four years, she lost only four matches, collecting three Wimbledons, three US titles, two French, and one Australian championship. In 1953, she won all four of the major titles, making her the first woman to win the Grand Slam. In 1954, she broke her leg in a horse riding accident and never played competitively again. In 1957, Althea Gibson became the first black player to reach the top, winning Wimbledon and the US titles.

It wasn't until the late fifties that any significant impact was made on the American domination. It was finally broken by a Brazilian, Maria Bueno. Her triumphs signalled a more balanced international attack in women's tennis. Through the early sixties, Bueno carried on a rivalry with the Australian Margaret Smith (later Court). Mrs. Court reflected a new attitude in women's tennis. She approached the game as a full time occupation - training intensively, and travelling to tournaments all over the world at any time of the year. In 1963, she became the first Australian woman to win Wimbledon. She then won it two more times, including in 1970, as part of a Grand Slam. Over her career, she collected eighty-five major singles and doubles titles. After Althea Gibson (1957-58) and prior to 1968, most of the international titles were distributed among Bueno, Smith (Court), and the American Billie Jean King.

To celebrate its fiftieth anniversary in 1963, the International Tennis Federation introduced the Federation Cup for women. The concept was similar to the Davis Cup but it was played in a shorter (best of three matches), more condensed (one week) format. The United States and Australia shared the honours for the first nine years.

Nineteen sixty-seven was the end of an era. Billy Jean King won the Wimbledon and US singles titles but Francoise Durr, of France, won the French title. Roy Emerson won in Australia and France but fellow Australian John Newcombe won at Wimbledon and in the US. However, Laver, Gonzalez, Hoad, and Rosewall controlled the professional ranks. With the split between amateur and pro competitions, there was no way of telling who the best tennis player in the world might be.

In the beginning, organized tennis was exclusively an upper middle class activity with no possible acceptance of anyone interested in benefitting financially from the game. In 1910, the Association in Britain even passed judgement on a player who had exchanged a prize voucher for food instead of a trinket. Promoters, however, realized that tennis attracted crowds, and the type of players who attracted spectators could be enticed to play in specific events if they were offered financial rewards. In the 1920s, Bill Tilden and Suzanne Lenglen benefitted from their status as crowd drawing personalities. At one point in his career, Tilden was actually suspended for accepting money for writing about tennis. The French Federation, however, appealed the suspension because Tilden was due to play Davis

Cup in France and his name was needed to attract crowds. The suspension was overturned. Lenglen and Tilden both eventually turned professional and attempted to make a living from playing tennis. The social class lines in tennis began to dissolve slowly as the working classes began to have more leisure time, and as the sport moved out of the exclusivity of private clubs.

Nonetheless, the distinctions between professional and amateur continued to exist. Differing views of amateurism was one of the main reasons why tennis ceased to be part of the Olympic Games.

For an individual, however, the options were clear. A top player could leave organized tennis to tour with a small, obscure group of professionals and earn a living. With the exceptions of a couple of tournaments, the professionals mostly played exhibitions, changing locations every night. Alternatively, a non-professional could continue to play amateur tennis, with its organized schedule and high profile events.

After 1946, the amateur ideal became increasingly difficult to maintain. Playing top tennis required a full time commitment. Training was more intensive and time consuming, and competing required extended periods of international travel. Providing expense money for travel, food, and accommodation became a prerequisite for attracting top players to tournaments. To try to prevent players from turning professional, tournament organizers often paid more expense money than was required to meet expenses, and also made "under the table" payments to the top competitors who might help attract crowds to their tournaments. The successful amateurs were able to make a good living from the sport, a situation often referred to as "shamateurism".

Nonetheless, many players were attracted by the large guarantees and the challenges offered by promoters of professional tennis. Every year, the loss of the amateurs who had won the major events made it obvious that the top ranked players in the world were not the best ones. Following the pioneer pros, like Lenglen and Tilden, were Cochet, Vines, Perry and Budge. In the 1940s, there were Bobby Riggs, Don Budge, and Jack Kramer. In the 1950s and '60s, the switch from amateur to the professionals continued with Trabert, Rosewall, Hoad, Gimeno, Olmedo, Buchholz, and Laver. Of the fifteen men who reached the number one ranking in the world between 1946 and 1967, only five kept their amateur status.

Then in 1967 a Texan millionaire and sports enthusiast, Lamar Hunt, teamed up with a struggling tennis promoter, Dave Dixon, and formed a company called World Championship Tennis. He signed up eight of the top amateurs of the day, including John Newcombe, Tony Roche, Cliff Drysdale, Nikki

Pilic, and Roger Taylor. Although amateur tennis had withstood the regular loss of one or two of its stars, the events of 1967 focused the world's attention on the professionals and were serious enough to help bring the problem to the surface.

The idea of amateurs and professionals playing together had been discussed before. At an International Federation meeting in 1960, a motion to change the situation was narrowly defeated. Ironically, it was the traditional heart of conservative thinking - the All England Club - that did not let the hypocrisy die. In August 1967, Wimbledon shattered its own tradition of amateurism by staging a very successful World Professional Championships in conjunction with the BBC to celebrate the introduction of BBC colour television transmission. Shortly thereafter, the catalyst came when England was asked by Austria to suspend the top English amateur for not carrying out an under the table professional contract to play in Austria. With the shamateurism problem on the table and the professionals still fresh in the English memories, Herman David, chairman of All England Club, persuaded the (British) Lawn Tennis Association to end the situation by erasing the distinction between amateurs and professionals. In December of 1967, the Lawn Tennis Association voted to move alone, in violation of the International Federation decisions on amateurism.

The International Federation was left with two options - either to expel Great Britain (and lose Wimbledon), or to join the movement. In a specially convened meeting in Paris in March 1968, it acquiesced. Each country was free to make its own rules on amateurism. On April 22, 1968 tennis became completely open.

The 1968 British Hardcourt Championships at Bournemouth were first open event in tennis history. The first open French and Wimbledon tournaments followed shortly after.

Open Tennis - 1967 to 1994

The first tournament open to both amateurs and professionals was the 1968 British Hard Court Championships at Bournemouth. Although it provided the first "upset" wins by amateurs, the pros prevailed, with Ken Rosewall winning over Rod Laver. Open tennis allowed the pros back into the Grand Slam events, too. Rosewall once again defeated Laver to capture the French Open, fifteen years after he had won it the first time. Laver then won the first open Wimbledon. Rosewall and Laver continued to be prominent names throughout the early open era. In 1969, Laver repeated his earlier performance by winning the Grand Slam, as well as the national championships of Italy, Germany, and South

Africa.

Opening tennis tournaments to both the pros and the amateurs did not end the problems. It proved to be just one of a series of struggles to control power in tennis. The United States was not even sure that it wanted to move to the professional format, and retained an amateur national championship for two years after tennis became open, giving the US two national champions in each of 1968 and 1969. Most of the top men signed contracts with Lamar Hunt's WCT (World Championship Tennis), removing them from the control of the International Lawn Tennis Federation and their national affiliates. In order to retain influence over the players and discourage them from joining the WCT, the I.L.T.F. (International Lawn Tennis Federation) designed a Grand Prix series, with points awarded to players in certain tournaments (often conflicting with WCT events), culminating in bonuses and a special year end event. At the beginning of 1972, in a dispute over involvement in running tournaments, the Federation banned all WCT pros from competing in tournaments which almost took the situation back to the pre-open days. Although the French and Wimbledon Championships were without WCT players, a compromise was reached before the US Open that year. The WCT was given part of the calendar year to run its events. The rivalry between the two groups of tournament organizers helped prize money escalate.

Along with the rise of professionalism, and the conflicts between the amateur officials and the professional organizers, came a realization among the players that they needed to form an organization that would help protect their interests. In 1972, over sixty of the top male players formed a "union" - the Association of Tennis Professionals. Its power was tested the next year when one of its members, Nikki Pilic of Yugoslavia, was penalized by his national association for playing professionally instead of volunteering for Davis Cup. The ATP appealed but the ILTF upheld the suspension, causing over seventy of the ATP membership to boycott Wimbledon. Wimbledon went on, but the battle was won by the professional players over the amateur officials. Restrictions on professionals playing Davis Cup and Federation Cup were lifted.

Women were involved in professional tennis from the very beginning. They were usually fewer in number, however, and their involvement on the barnstorming tours was usually as an opening act for the men. They did not have separate tours like the men had. Initially, therefore, open tennis didn't make as much difference for the women. The prizes were now legal and larger, but the rewards offered by the tournaments were not as great for women as they were for men. At the first open Wimbledon, for example, the men's prize was 2000 pounds, while the women's was only 750. Initially, some women even chose not to relinquish their amateur status. Because there was not an influx of players from a professional lifestyle, the women's events still usually contained the same familiar players of pre-professional days. In 1970, Margaret Court matched Maureen Connelly's Grand Slam by winning all four of the major titles. Other names on the early winners cheques included Evonne Goolagong, Billie Jean King, Ann Jones, and Virginia Wade.

It was the inequity of prize money that resulted in a group of the top women forming an association of their own - the Women's Tennis Association. Billie Jean King helped to attach the feminist spirit to women's athletics and tennis in particular. Their own tennis circuit was initiated under the sponsorship of the editor of Tennis magazine (Gladys Heldman) and Virginia Slims. The WTA campaigned for equal prize money, based on equal entertainment value.

After the pioneers of women's professional tennis faded, a rivalry developed between two young players, Chris Evert (US) and Martina Navratilova (Czechoslovakia, then US). The pair dominated competitions for ten years - Evert with her consistency, and Navratilova with her attacking game. They were followed by Steffi Graf (Germany) who, in 1988, became the third woman to win a Grand Slam, and added to it with an Olympic gold medal. With the depth in women's tennis increasing rapidly, Graf was soon challenged and overtaken by Monica Seles (Yugoslavia, then US), who led the way into the 1990s.

On the men's circuit, combining the original pros with the former amateurs contributed to more varied results. Laver and Rosewall were near the end of their careers and soon made way for the best of the newcomers, John Newcombe (Australia) and Arthur Ashe (US). Within a few years, there was a significant rise in the tennis in Europe, led by players like Ilie Nastase (Romania), Bjorn Borg (Sweden), Ivan Lendl (Czechoslovakia), Boris Becker (Germany), and Stefan Edberg (Sweden). They challenged the Americans Stan Smith, Jimmy Connors, and John McEnroe. Others such as Guillermo Vilas (Argentina) or Pat Cash (Australia) had some success on specific surfaces.

The change to open events seemed to help revive public interest in tennis, and the disputes among its participants only seemed to increase its popularity. Tennis lost some of its "snob appeal" and its upper class exclusivity, and became the "boom sport" of the 1970s. Mass production had lowered costs on racquets, strings, and shoes. Public courts had increased accessability. As the world entered an era of increased leisure time and recreation, people suddenly seemed to realize that tennis was a lifetime sport the whole family could play - and possibly make a living at. All around the world, millions of people entered the game. By

1972, tennis was the most widely played international sport after soccer. In 1989, the International Tennis Federation boasted one hundred forty-seven members.

Tennis events grew with the sport. Stadiums had to be upgraded. The Australian Open moved from Kooyong to Flinders Park: the US Open moved from Forest Hills to Flushing Meadow. Davis Cup, which had started with only two teams, grew to include over ninety nations, with the winners often coming from outside the traditional tennis powers. Several European countries, such as Sweden, Czechoslovakia, Italy, Romania, Germany, and Yugoslavia, developed into strong contenders. South Africa, Chile, India, and Argentina have also made it to the finals or won. In 1973, Davis Cup dropped the Challenge format for a knockout system. The size of the event later forced the format to change to zone playdowns that qualify for the top "World" group. The Federation Cup has tripled in size from its original 1963 starting size of sixteen. By 1974 (just six years after tennis opened), twenty six nations were represented by professional players on the WCT tour. Rather than having one competition each week, today's circuit features a choice of several events on most weeks. Multi-sport events such as the All African Games and the World Student Games now include tennis. After being an exhibition sport in Los Angeles, tennis also rejoined the Summer Olympics at the 1988 Games in Seoul. Successfully established circuits also exist for junior and senior players around the world.

With the booms in tennis - professional play, grass roots participation, and spectating, - people everywhere seemed to be interested in the sport. The popularity, high visibility, and image of tennis made it a natural for commercial sponsorship. To have their product associated with a healthy, active sport, companies invested advertising dollars in tournaments or series of tournaments. Prize money increased. Product manufacturers and distributers also paid individual players to promote their product by wearing endorsement patches on their clothing or by appearing in advertisements.

With the public demanding more tennis, the positive relationship with the media continued and expanded. The first radio broadcast from Wimbledon had occurred in 1927 and ten years later the championships were the first ever outdoors broadcast by BBC television. Television brought colour to tennis in 1967. Today, coverage of the major events involves over eighty television networks worldwide. Advertising revenue from companies wanting to associate their product with tennis enables the broadcasting companies to pay tournament organizers large amounts of money for the rights to televise matches or events. These contracts have further increased the prize money available to professional players.

In 1969, Laver became the first tennis player to win $100,000 in a year. Due to the efforts of the organizers of the separate women's tour, the women closely followed the men in income. In 1971, King became the first female athlete to surpass $100,000 prize money in one year. In 1982, aided by inflated purses from rival men's circuits, Ivan Lendl earned over $2,000,000. By 1987, over sixty male professionals had earned more than a million dollars in career prize money. However, it was the top females who gained most from the larger prize money. Because there was less close competition among the women, the top prizes went to the same players more often. Evert and Navratilova and others that followed reaped the rewards of the pioneer's efforts. By the end of the 1980s, several top players each year were able to earn over a million dollars a year in tournament prize money. This, of course, is in addition to the personal endorsement contracts.

With this type of money available, many of the pros have agencies represent them. The player agents woo and sign players, arrange schedules of play and appearances, shop for sponsors and negotiate contracts, and in return take a percentage of the income. Although this simplifies the players lives, it often complicates the tennis industry. The major agents further muddle the politics of tennis with their conflicts of interest by holding power over some of the tournaments, television contracts, sponsors, and players.

There is no doubt that pressure from society has had an impact on tennis. Although open tennis provided for many dramatic matches, they did not always fit neatly into time slots. Set scores sometimes reached as high as 24-22. Matches occasionally contained over one hundred games and were spread over two days. The need for commercial packaging by television spurred on changes in the scoring system. To please the media and prevent matches from lasting forever (a theoretical possibility with sets that must be won by at least a two game margin), tennis officials experimented with different forms of tiebreakers. The original tiebreak, first developed by the American innovator, James Van Alen, was tried in the US Open in 1970; another type at Wimbledon in '71. At first, Wimbledon only used the tiebreak if the score reached 8-all, but in 1979, they began instituting it at 6-all. Now, it is used in all tournaments everywhere, with the exception of a few events which do not play tiebreaks in the final set.

The media also promoted the return of coloured clothing to tennis. Over one hundred years ago, the first national titles were won in coloured blazers, shirts and ties. It was only towards the end of the 1800s that white became fashionable. Although tennis attire is still usually conservative, colours became prominent with open tennis and the media coverage.

Beginning in 1974, the demand for tennis by new audiences was tested by World Team Tennis. The concept, promoted by Billie Jean King, involved signing groups of pros to represent cities, and scheduling frequent team competitions to each site, similar to other team sports. It featured brightly coloured uniforms and court surfaces, coaches, simplified scoring, and crowd participation. The variations from the normal traditions of tennis did not attract vast new audiences as the promoters hoped, but they found enough support that the league continues to exist into the 1990s. The WTT team concept also spawned other professional leagues in countries around the world.

Billie Jean King was also involved in the media extravaganza sometimes referred to as "The Battle of the Sexes". In a 1973 publicity stunt, Bobby Riggs, a 1939 Wimbledon champion, challenged Margaret Court, the top female of the year, to a match and won. In an attempt to save the honour of women's tennis, Billie Jean King asked to play a rematch with Riggs. King was not flustered by the circus atmosphere, as Court was, and went on to defeat Riggs soundly in the Houston Astrodome before thirty thousand five hundred spectators and fifty million television viewers. Although the match proved little, it significantly raised the profile of tennis - women's tennis especially.

Modern technology other than television has also had some impact on tennis. For almost one hundred years, the limitations of working with wood put restrictions on racquet innovations. Early attempts at steel racquets in the 1920s proved unwieldy and unpopular. With manufacturing improvements, they were reintroduced in 1966 with much greater success and impact on the industry. They started the trend towards improvisation that resulted in composite racquets of fibreglass and graphite, kevlar, boron, aluminum, and other light and strong materials. Without adding extra weight, these materials enabled the development of larger,"oversize" racquets and the thicker profile "widebody" frames that dominated the racquet market in the 1980s. In response to the new technology, rules about racquet size and string arrangements were first introduced in 1977.

Another example of the modernization of tennis is that since 1973 rankings have been handled by computer. They are no longer just annual "top ten" ratings. With formulas that are too complex for most people to bother with, the computer continually positions thousands of individuals playing in dozens of sanctioned tournaments each week. Modern science has also contributed an electronic eye, a "Cyclops", for calling serves, which may be the forerunner of a complete electronic line calling system. Tennis fashion has been altered by the modern fabrics. Light new materials that stretch and "breathe" have added to the practical on-court attire of today's players.

In many ways other than fashion, the sport of tennis has led or mirrored society. In spite of upper class beginnings and a conservative establishment, tennis was an early pioneer in professionalism. From the early tours of the 1920s to the multitude of open tournaments today, tennis has been a leader of individual sports. Although women today are still attempting to rectify the inequality of prize money, tennis has historically given them an opportunity to participate in recreational and professional sports that few other activities have offered. The game was designed with them in mind; they entered tournaments early; and they supported themselves professionally before it was very fashionable for women to be involved in any activities outside the home. Tennis fashions often influenced society. Even though some socio-economic barriers still remain, tennis has opened its participation to all races and creeds. While America was still struggling with racial problems in the 1950s, a black woman, Althea Gibson, was winning Wimbledon. Arthur Ashe, another black American, won the first US Open and a Wimbledon. They lead the way for other black participants, and opened doors for all ethnic groups. Females and blacks were also given opportunities to coach and do television commentary, long before other sports would allow them to fill those positions. Today, the multicultural and international nature of the sport is evident in the diversity of players on the professional circuit and the public courts.

Possibly due to the politics, tennis has never developed a world championship, making the national events even more attractive. The Grand Slam titles of England, France, United States, and Australia remain the top tennis achievements. This has helped tennis retain its diversity. The events are held in widely separated locations at different times of the year. The different court surfaces change the speed of the oncoming ball. Although it must meet general ITF standards, the ball itself varies on different continents and in different tournaments. These factors combine to make it very difficult for any one player to win all of the major titles. Some players even specialize in only one type of surface. The diversity of surfaces resulted in tennis associations dropping the word "lawn" from their titles in the mid-1970s.

Since 1968, tennis has been open to all players. The modern era has seen the rise of professionals, women's tennis, money, and politics. Tennis is still changing as it progresses through the 1990s.

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APPENDIX B

HISTORY OF CANADIAN TENNIS

History of Tennis at the University of Alberta

The History of Canadian Tennis

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HISTORY OF CANADIAN TENNIS

Before 1873 (Origins of Tennis)

The racquet games that immediately preceded lawn tennis were present in Canada and the New World but were not as evident as they were in Europe. One type of "rackets" was reported in New York in the mid-seventeenth century. However, on a sparsely inhabited continent where even the social leaders had to work for a living, the leisure time required for racquet games was not generally available for at least another century.

The British officers stationed around the country were largely responsible for the introduction of indoor racquet-and-ball play to Canadians. From London, Montreal, Hamilton, Quebec and Halifax, "racquets" spread across Canada and through the United States. In Montreal, the first racquets court was built in 1836. The Montreal Racquets Club, established just four years later, became one of the centres for the elite of the city's upper class for the next twenty years. More courts were built in Montreal in 1860 and 1862. (The latter court had a masonry front wall, an innovation for that day.) Because those interested in "racquets" were primarily military personnel, its popularity began to wane after the withdrawal of the troops in 1870. However, another court was built in Montreal in 1875 and a group of prominent citizens began to play once more. The game continued to hold some popularity with the most affluent members of the community.

"Racquets" held its first national championship for women in 1881, (the same year as the first women's tennis tournament). Other racquet sports also existed. In 1870, on the west coast, a newspaper reported an interesting "fives" contest. Tennis, however, was poised to take over as the dominant racquet sport.

1873 to 1877 (Sphairistike)

Canada was among the first countries to begin playing the new game. Shortly after Major Harry Gem and Major Walter Clopton Wingfield were developing the groundwork and basic rules for what grew into lawn tennis, British army officers introduced the game to Bermuda. Miss Mary Outerbridge and her husband Emelius are given credit for introducing the game to North America, having brought the first set of tennis equipment back from a Bermuda holiday in the spring of 1874. Although the honour is disputed, Miss Outerbridge is also often credited with establishing the first lawn tennis club in the United States later that year.

That same year, when Isodore F. Helmuth returned to Toronto after a visit to the United States where he saw tennis being played on Staten Island, he established a club on a single grass court that was the predecessor of what became known as the Toronto Lawn Tennis Club two years later. This was the same year that sphairistike was patented and only two years after the first tennis club was formed in Leamington, England. The new club in Toronto quickly became a haunt for the city's ruling elite, serving as a sport and social centre for many of the area's upper class families. In the early years, the entrance fee was twenty five dollars plus a five dollar annual fee, helping to ensure its exclusivity. "Some of the affluent members of society found it more in keeping with their social status to move into sports which guaranteed at least temporary sanctity, such as yachting, tennis, and golf (Cox, p.33)." It became very "fashionable to have a court on the lawns of expensive homes."

Isodore Helmuth is generally regarded as the pioneer of Canadian tennis. He was born in Sherbrooke, Quebec in 1854 and studied to be a lawyer at Trinity College, Cambridge. By designing courts, establishing clubs and playing wherever he went in Canada, Helmuth did his utmost to promote the new game. It was largely due to Helmuth's efforts that tennis quickly became established in the central Canadian cities. It rapidly expanded East and West from there.

1877 to 1914 (The Growth of Lawn Tennis)

Isodore Helmuth helped start clubs in Toronto and London, and indirectly assisted with several others. Through the mobile upper class, tennis spread to other centres, such as Ottawa and Montreal by 1876. The first recognized tournament in Canada was held at the Montreal Cricket Club in 1878. The first indoor tournament took place in Ottawa in 1881.

According to Allan Cox (1969) in his thesis A History of Sports in Canada 1868-1900 "by 1890, lawn tennis had become almost an institution in the social circles of the urbanized areas. It had also infiltrated the pioneer lands of the west, probably taken there by those who had been enthusiasts in the east." (p. 170) By 1885, tennis was established in Halifax, Saint John, Winnipeg, Regina, Vancouver, and Victoria. Many smaller towns and cities across the country, such as London, Niagara, Kingston, Fredericton, Regina and Lethbridge, followed and formed clubs before the end of the 1880s. The first club in Edmonton is reported to have been formed in 1891. The prairie cities did not have all the advantages of other centres in Canada. The English tradition was not as strong, the American tennis influence was not as close, and they did not have as favourable a climate. (Howell & Howell, eg. p. 232, p. 258, p. 265, p. 270, p. 288, p. 298) On the prairies, it wasn't until late in the 1890s that clubs became numerous (Cox, 1969, p. 173).

By 1900, tennis was popular in nearly all urban centres. In 1894, an American visitor to Winnipeg commented on the leisurely habits of the businessmen who arrived at work late and left early for the tennis courts. Tennis became one of the preferred sports in the Vancouver area where the heavy forests and lack of flat land restricted development of some sports. Even the boom town of Dawson started a club as a form of entertainment for the "society class" in the late 1890s.

Clubs in the smaller, less urban areas were less homogeneous, but still drew mostly from the prominent citizens. Tennis was not as expensive as other elite sports such as hunting, yachting, and golf, and its claim to upper class exclusivity was on shakier ground. Although it started as a game for the social elite, as the cost of equipment decreased and more public facilities became available, it expanded considerably to become a game for the middle class. (Jobling, 1970, p. 163) By 1896 "there was an indication that lawn tennis was losing its high social 'tea and scones' status and was joining the ranks of the popular Saturday afternoon sports." (Cox, 1969, p. 173) Tennis also benefited from the expansion of other sports, particularly golf. Many golf clubs added tennis courts as they became more interested in a social role.

In addition to being part of a recreation boom in the middle class, tennis also participated in the gender revolution. Although women's participation in most sports was frowned upon, tennis along with cycling and golf helped break down sex and age barriers. By the end of the 1880s, it was fashionable for women to play tennis, but there were few clubs that gave them full playing privileges. (Howell and Howell, 1985, p. 120) Gradually, attitudes changed and women were admitted as regular members. Prior to 1900, tennis was the "only vigorous sport in which women were allowed to compete." (Cox, 1969, p. 175) Even tennis clubs that were originally all-male soon opened their membership to women. Ladies were originally only social participants, but were soon accepted into competition because the limited exercise would not harm them and would lighten their spirits and enhance their physical appearance by putting "a flush in their cheeks". Although the percentage of women participating in sport was probably still small at the turn of the century, many of the old traditions were broken down and the stage was set for mass participation in the twentieth century. It was even claimed that in tennis "great moments concerned with emancipation of women were seen."

(Jones, 1970)

As it expanded, tennis remained tied to private clubs and the socially conscious middle and upper classes. Clubs across the country were organized and operated by local doctors, bankers, and lawyers. In addition to being a worthwhile sporting activity, tennis often was a social opportunity. Tea was served, bands played, and the latest fashions were displayed. Ladies participated in their full length skirts, which effectively eliminated "unladylike movements". Some early tournaments were by invitation only to help protect the elite from social inferiors. Applications were screened so only those who would "pass the test" would think of entering.

Tennis remained on the outer edges of the professional/amateur conflict. Players were strictly amateur but tennis clubs often hired professionals to perform clearly defined duties (while remaining socially inferior).

Although tennis was adopted quickly into Quebec, a division between ethnic groups existed. Tennis was considered an "old country" English game and may have been less popular with French because of that. Nonetheless, more than twenty courts were built in Montreal and Quebec during the early 1880s. Led by the McGill Tennis Club, tennis was aggressively promoted throughout the province. Although the summers almost immediately featured intra-club competitions and local tournaments, national and international events followed shortly.

Isadore Helmuth's influence was significantly enhanced by his outstanding ability as a player. In the first unofficial U.S. championship in 1880, he reached the final before losing to that year's Wimbledon finalist, O.E. Woodhouse of England. When he returned from the American tournament, Helmuth began organizing a Canadian event along the same lines. In 1881, both the U.S. and Canada held their first official international championships, just four years after the first Wimbledon. Although Helmuth was disappointed with the number of entrants in the Canadian tournament, the event was extremely successful in other ways, and was the beginning of a Canadian tradition of hosting excellent events. The Toronto Lawn Tennis Club provided an attractive setting for an elite social gathering. Though there were only seven men in the main draw and another fourteen in a handicap event, hundreds of upper class spectators, including the Lieutenant-Governor and other VIPs, witnessed the matches. Helmuth won the first Canadian international tournament.

The event was noted in the media, but more as a social event than an athletic one. Comments were made on the setting, the people, their position in society and their clothes. The press even began suggesting that tennis would make a fine national sport for Canada. The attention, however, was largely due to the fact that the people involved in tennis made good press. The upper class citizens were the ones who owned the newspapers, made the stories happen, and bought the papers, too. As a result, the press coverage was often out of proportion with the true popularity of tennis. Although the game was popular and had spread quickly across Canada, in its early years tennis was largely restricted to the upper class, and therefore would never have made a good national sport.

The first Canadian Championship, organized by Helmuth, had a men's singles event only. There were no doubles and no ladies events. Nonetheless, the event was considered such a success that a women-only tournament was held a month later in Ottawa. The Governor General donated the prize and presented it to the winner, Miss Ritchie. Because of the small entries, there were few tournaments for women until 1891, when the Canadian Lawn Tennis Association revived them. By 1892, there were five major tennis events for women in Canada.

Play continued indoors through the winter, wherever possible. On March 14, 1882, the Toronto Globe reported that every club that had access to an armoury had been overflowed with memberships and predicted that tennis would be the rage of the summer season. (Howell & Howell, 1985, p. 135)

The Canadian Lawn Tennis Association, the predecessor of Tennis Canada, was formed on July 1, 1890 to promote tournaments across the country, with special attention on the Canadian international championships. Of course, at this time, the "national" organization really represented little more than southern Ontario.

The regions across Canada became organized at their own pace. Manitoba was the first to create a formal organization, forming the Manitoba Tennis Association in 1880. Quebec didn't see the necessity until 1899. The Ontario Lawn Tennis Association was not formed until 1918. Vancouver and Victoria participated in the Pacific Northwest Region of the United States, forming relationships that still exist today. In 1885, the first BC Championships were held, drawing players from along the Pacific coast and starting a West Coast championship that competed with the "national" Canadian championships of the East. In 1902, Bobby Powell, one of the top Canadian players, helped form the Pacific Northwest Tennis Association. Due to the fact that they are isolated from both East and West and that they were settled later than other regions, Saskatchewan and Alberta were the last provinces to organize. In general, however, the favourite sports from Eastern Canada were transported onto the Prairies by immigrants. Thus, although delayed, tennis and other sports flowed across the Prairies with the railway and the tide of settlers.

Through the efforts of Isadore Hellmuth and the first CLTA president, Charles Hyman, Canadian tennis adopted the prevailing rules of the All England Lawn Tennis Club in Wimbledon, which helped to establish the Canadian championship as a serious international event. It was also Hellmuth and Hyman who dominated local play in Canada in the first decade of tennis. In general, however, the Canadians did not fare well against the international competition. While Canadians were busy with their careers, society and politics, players elsewhere were much more focused and devoted to tennis. (Hyman, for example, while serving as President of the CLTA in 1890, 1891 and 1892, was also Mayor of London, President of the London Board of Trade, and Liberal Member of Parliament. Before becoming a Federal Cabinet minister in 1904, Hyman won four Canadian men's singles titles.) In the U.S., tennis became part of the collegiate sports system that allowed players to have access to top competition while they studied and matured. Therefore, when the international players attended the Canadian championships, they most often prevailed over the locals.

For the first few years, the Canadian championships did not draw enough females for women's tennis to be taken seriously. However, an outstanding final in 1892 gave the women's game the attention it needed to boost it to national and international level.

In 1894, in response to criticism that Toronto was monopolizing the national championships, the CLTA decided to move the event to other venues. The tournament was scheduled for Ottawa at the same time as Wimbledon, decreasing the involvement of international players from abroad. Only a small number of players entered, forcing the organizers to admit their scheduling error. It was, however, the last time a Canadian would win the men's title for fifteen years.

In 1895, in an effort to increase the number of participants in tennis, Canadian junior championships were organized and run for the first time. The same year, the Toronto Lawn Tennis Club changed locations and began to struggle. By the time it regained its stability, the club had lost its dominance in Canada.

Very little tennis was played at schools or universities before the 1890s. The expense of adding extra facilities such as tennis courts was too great for the rapidly growing schools and colleges. Still, during the last years of the century there was some building of courts as part of college facilities. McGill, in fact, had some tennis courts as early as 1882, and the University of Toronto, Upper Canada College, and Trinity College in Toronto had teams on the court helping to increase the sports popularity and visibility.

In 1895, the Canadian championships were moved to Niagara-on-the-Lake. Although it was a smaller community, the move turned out to be a perfect choice. The community promoted and organized the tournament like no other tennis event had ever been done. The historical and picturesque resort site was extremely popular with the upper class which supported the tournaments. For almost two decades the event was adopted as the "jewel of the summer circuit" by the players, press and public. The tournament attracted world class tennis to Canada and the men's winners list featured most of the top or soon to be top American players.

The women's event even attracted Wimbledon champion May Sutton as a spectator and as a player. Unfortunately, the Canadians, realizing that they were not in the same class as the other competitors, began entering their own tournament less frequently, leaving it as a truly international as opposed to national championships. Although Canada did not produce the calibre of player to win the event, the country continued to establish it's reputation as a host.

By the twentieth century, some provinces, such as Ontario and BC, had tennis well established; in others, it had only a foothold. However, numerous tennis clubs were still being formed during this period, and private courts were often built on the grounds of the upper class homes. Schools, colleges, and universities that had not built courts by the turn of the century often gradually added courts to their facilities.

In addition to the increase in clubs, the turn of the century saw other changes in tennis such as the involvement of the church and municipal governments. The most significant deviation was in the adoption of tennis by the churches as a result of a change in the churches' attitude to amusements and recreation. From being opponents of physical recreation in the 1880s the churches gradually changed their position to one of support for morally uplifting recreation. "Muscular Christianity" expressed the belief that wholesome sports, games and activities could be a potent method of "advertising" and spreading the values of the Christian faith. One of the outgrowths of this was the fervent adoption of lawn tennis which in some areas involved the entrance of church teams in the newly developing leagues (Winnipeg - 1905, Regina - 1915, Peterborough - 1915), while in other areas, especially the large cities (Winnipeg, Victoria, Vancouver, Montreal, Toronto), churches created their own leagues. These developments did not signify a major change in the groups playing tennis; tennis players, largely, were still from the "respectable" middle class.

A final significant change, the provision of courts by municipalities, had the potential for altering considerably the availability and the social structure of the game. By 1915, Montreal, Toronto, Hamilton, London, Winnipeg, and Vancouver all provided courts in city parks as part of a parks and playground movement that had its origins in the late 1800s. Originally, even though the courts were built with public funding, they remained available only to specific groups. For example, by 1915, Vancouver had twenty-four public courts in seven public parks. However, the parks commissioner was able to allocate the courts to various private clubs, and only ten percent were available for use by the general public.

Club competitions, interclub challenges and city championships were well established by 1910 in all of the major cities. The populated areas - Ontario, Quebec, and British Columbia - led in the development with the Prairies and Maritimes not far behind. Because they were still major social events, tennis competitions drew considerable newspaper coverage. The rapid growth of the game, through its wide social acceptance across North America, led to international matches which were often originally north-south encounters. Distances to competition were frequently shorter across the border than they were to the nearest interprovincial rival.

After playing against the Americans, Canadians began to look beyond North America. Canadians even tried playing in the Olympics in 1908. Shortly after joining the International Tennis Federation in 1913, Canada decided to participate with other nations in the major international tennis competitions. Canada did well in its initial foray into international tennis. The Davis Cup team reached the finals of the Challenge Round before losing to the eventual champion, the United States. Canada has never again attained that level of success in Davis Cup competition.

All four members of the original Davis Cup team resided in Victoria. The team included Bobby Powell who, in 1909, had won the Wimbledon Consolation Plate and reached the doubles final, and Bernie Schwengers who later won two Canadian singles championships, signed a contract with the St. Louis Cardinals baseball team, played rugby and soccer, had his photo in Sandow's Muscle Magazine (the Gentlemen's Quarterly of the early 20th century), and eventually was selected to the Canadian Sports Hall of Fame. Canada's Davis Cup team tried again in 1914 with the same team, losing to Australia in a tie at Chicago.

With the CLTA once again responding to the criticisms of unfairness in developing tennis talent in Canada, the international tournament was moved outside Ontario for the first time in 1908. Very few of the top players showed up in Montreal and only a "handful of spectators" attended. The CLTA admitted that more had to be done to promote the game throughout the Dominion, but quickly moved the championships back to Niagara.

Following the American example, the CLTA did try to start tennis in the majority of Upper Canada colleges. However, it never did achieve the importance of team sports and the seasonal play also kept the level of tennis well below the American colleges, as well. The first intercollegiate tennis tournament was played at Kingston on Oct 29 and 30, 1909 with Queen's University, McGill, and the Royal Military College participating.

First World War took large numbers of the young men from the playing ranks and increased the French/English tensions within Canada and Canadian tennis. No national championships were held from 1915 to 1918. When the war ended, the championships resumed at the Toronto Lawn Tennis Club. The tournament's glory days of Niagara were gone. It would be years before the combination of site, energetic organizers and international players would be matched.

Tennis Grows Up - 1919 to 1939

After the lull during World War I, tennis courts were once again filled with activity. In addition, public courts had become common by this period and continued to increase, so many more Canadians had the opportunity to play tennis.

Although Davis Cup competition started again in 1919, Canada did not play until 1921 when they again lost to Australia, this time in Toronto. In 1923, Davis Cup was played in Montreal for the first time. The enthusiasm generated has helped Montreal remain one of the centres of Canadian tennis. That year was also the first appearances for Jack Wright and Willard Crocker, still regarded as two of the strongest players this country has produced. Wright dominated Canadian tennis in the 1920s and won the Canadian international in 1927, 1929, and 1931. Crocker was a Canadian Davis Cup player from 1923 to 1930. In Davis Cup in 1927 and 1928, Canada narrowly lost to the Japanese. In the first of these meetings, Wright defeated Takeichi Harada who reached the world's top five the following year.

In the 1930s, prominent names include Marcel Rainville, Canadian champion in 1934, and Bob Murray, the first Canadian to win an international tennis tournament when he claimed the Scottish championships in 1935. Canada withdrew from Davis Cup in 1935, 1936, and 1937, before resuming competition in 1938 and 1939, losing to the Japanese and then Cuba. The beginning of the Second World War probably prevented the promising new team of Laird Watt, Bob Murray, Ross Wilson and Doug Cameron along with Marcel Rainville, from reaching their full potential. Watt and Murray especially had received recognition throughout the United States and Europe for their fine play and sportsmanship.

In the 1920s, many schools offered tennis as part of a girl's physical training program, but great players were not produced. In women's tennis in the 1930s , the outstanding Canadian player was Marjorie Leeming; she was one of the few Canadian women to make any impact on North American tennis. (A Western Canada Intercollegiate Athletic Union trophy was named after her.)

Compared to the flamboyance of international tennis at this time - with players such as Tilden, Lenglen, and the Muskateers - the Canadian players were very mundane and lacklustre as were the Canadian championships. The Toronto committee did its best to attract some international players and replace the atmosphere of the Niagara championships. In 1919, the men's title was won by S. Kashio of Japan and the women's by M. Zinderstein of the United States.

In 1920, in another attempt to promote the development of tennis in the regions, the championships were moved to Winnipeg. The remoteness weakened the draw and lost the glamour of the event. The 1922 draw in Toronto rebounded to one hundred twenty-eight men's singles and sixty-four doubles, the same size as the Grand Slam events. Attendance also recovered. In addition, the Australian Davis Cup team entered. (They were in town to play Canada after the tournament.) The size and international flavour led some to believe that the Canadian tournament was once again a major event on the circuit. The next year, however, the international element was lacking, giving some of the up-and-coming Canadians a chance to have some success.

In 1925, the championships were moved to Vancouver for the first time. With the exception of some American west coast players, once again the international field was weakened. Canadians swept the titles. The tournament went to Victoria the next year and then back to Vancouver the following year. The "permanence" seemed to attract better players each year. A group of talented Canadians also began to have some success against the international competition.

During this "Golden Age of Sports", the Canadian male tennis players were good enough to upset players who had better international standings, but were not able to achieve good international rankings of their own. The women, while not as deep in talent, also produced players of a calibre that challenged and sometimes defeated their American rivals. Canadian players, however, were commended as often for sportsmanship as for their playing. Questions started being asked about why Canada could not achieve international recognition and success. All participants in the debate agreed that Canadian tennis was not on par with the international game but no one had the answer on how to fix it.

One of the cited reasons was that the climate made the playing seasons short. Indoor facilities were also scarce in Canada. The combination of these two meant that it was difficult for Canadian tennis players to practice and play as much as their rivals, making it more unlikely that they could maintain the same standard of play. Another reason may have been the difficulty of finding regular, worthy opponents. Because of the size of our country, players frequently had to go considerable distances to find top competition. Sometimes it was interprovincial, but more often it meant travelling south across the border. Obviously the closer you lived to the larger population centres, whether Canadian or American, the easier it was to find competition. The lack of qualified coaches and all-year coaching also added to the problem in Canada.

The main reason for the disparity in success, however, was probably that the Canadians had different priorities. The Canadian Lawn Tennis Association was a volunteer organization. Its members approached the sport with the purity of the Olympic amateur ideals. They believed that tennis was, and should remain, a gentleman's game to be played for fun and exercise. It was not whether you won or lost, but how you played the game.

Other countries, notably the United States and Australia, did their best to assist their young players to improve. Although these amateurs could not be paid directly, sponsors often gave them jobs with flexible hours and good pay. In addition, their Tennis Associations often supported the players with substantial food and accommodation subsidies, and equipment allowances. Tournament organizers also frequently paid the top players "under the table" to appear at their tournaments, helping to insure a good gate (audience receipts). These advantages allowed the players from other countries to follow the tournament circuit, playing and practising daily against top level players. Similar to many other conservative members of the ILTF, Canada - the government, tennis associations and tournament organizers - gave its own players none of these benefits. Instead of assisting the players, they seemed to set up obstacles. They offered no system for producing top players. Success was just supposed to happen.

Possibly because of these different priorities resulting in the absence of a system and a lack of assistance, the Canadian players had different priorities, too. Most of the Canadian players never played international competition outside of their own Canadian tournament. The Canadians preferred to commit their talents to their careers, holding regular jobs, never really giving tennis their complete attention and never really giving themselves a chance to prove what they could do against the best in the world. They had to take holidays just to be in a tournament or play Davis Cup.

Priorities, therefore - both national and personal - seemed to combine to leave the Canadian players finishing second in most matches. Canada completely missed the international trend that saw other countries assist their best players with tournament tours. Instead Canadian players arranged their practice times, tournaments, and even Davis Cup around their work. The countries that followed the trend - primarily the United States and Australia - soon surged ahead of the others. Even when it became apparent that a professional tennis career was possible and could be highly lucrative, Canadians never made attempts to try touring as a career. Canadians, it seemed, had talent to challenge internationally, but not the system and possibly not the desire. The debate about how to solve the "problem" would go on for decades.

Although the sport lacked stars, Canadians still showed a growing interest in tennis. By 1939, radio broadcasts were made of final and semi-final events. The Canadian championships continued to move from one side of the country to the other, in spite of the success of other events that had committed to a permanent host site, and in spite of the wishes of many of the entrants. Because of the Second World War, no Championships were held from 1941 to 1945.

Tennis Gets Serious - 1939 to 1967

When play resumed after World War II, the questions about producing international players still remained unanswered. Tennis officials realized that most of the Canadian tournaments were still being dominated by foreign players. If Canada could produce world class competitors in a wide variety of sports, why not tennis? In Ontario, constructive efforts were made in the late forties to change the situation. An attempt to start youth programs was made. The junior development scheme caused a definite revival of interest and upgrading of standards. District winners travelled to Provincial championships and the singles winners qualified for financial assistance to the Dominion championships.

In the 1948 Annual Report of the CLTA, the president recommended that the national association take a much more active role in the development of tennis in Canada. To do so, the provinces started collecting a fee from each member. Some provinces, however, were reluctant to give up revenues to national body.

Canada continued to produce good, talented players but still no stars. Canada resumed Davis Cup play in 1946. Immediately after the war, Brendan Macken, a Davis Cupper from 1946 to 1952, and Henri Rochon, a master of touch from Quebec, served as Davis Cup teammates for seven consecutive years. For the last three years of that period they were joined by Lorne Main. Lorne Main , the first three time winner of the national junior singles title, was considered to be the best junior developed in Canada. Although it was Main who would have the most international success for Canada, the outstanding win during these years was Macken's five set win over Billy Sidwell of Australia in the opening match of 1949, one of the biggest tennis upsets of the year.

Rochon, Macken and Main "formed the leading triumvirate of Canadian men's tennis for almost a decade. Together, they won a score of Canadian singles and doubles championships, twice reached the American Zone finals of Davis Cup play, and scored some memorable victories during rare appearances on the international circuit." (Kendrick, 1990, p. 82) In 1954, Main even won a couple of the smaller international events in Monte Carlo and Belgium (before retiring in 1955 to pursue a more lucrative career). Pat Macken, Brendan's sister, was the top female throughout the late 1940s, competing with but not usually defeating the top foreign players.

During this decade the Canadian championships criss-crossed the country being played in Ottawa, New Brunswick, Montreal, Vancouver, and Toronto. Early in the 1950s, the championships became established in Toronto again, and each year drew a greater number of foreign players in the men's draw. The women's event, however, continued to be a good challenge for the top Canadians before they lost to some unheralded and little known American.

By 1957, a new group of Canadians were on the scene. Bob Bedard actually won the Canadian title in 1955, 1957 and 1958, teamed with Don Fontana to win three doubles crowns, and competed in Davis Cup. Bedard was ranked number 1 in Canada for ten straight years and had some international wins over established players.

Bedard was the last Canadian male to win the Canadian international and has since been elected to the Canadian Sports Hall of Fame.

During that period, in 1956, Montreal's R.N. Watt became the first and only Canadian-born President of the International Tennis Federation. He and his son Laird were a unique father and son combination on and off the court. Both were Tennis Canada Presidents and they teamed to win three U.S. father and son doubles titles to retire the trophy.

The 1958 championships went to Vancouver and the 1959 event was in Quebec. In 1960 it was back in southern

Ontario, but was disrupted by severe weather in the US cutting off travel. In spite of the site changes and weather, the international recognition of the tournament increased. Davis Cup teams often entered and individual players from around the world often chose to play the Canadian event.

In 1961, having seen changes in the tournaments around the world, the Canadian tournament Chairman announced that to become a quality event of international standard, the tournament needed upgrading. He accused the CLTA of wanting to reap the benefits without sharing the costs and the risks, starting a debate with the CLTA over finances. That year, the men's matches were increased to best of five sets to be more like the Grand Slam events. However, the CLTA establishment refused to join the major trends. They remained committed to the conservative amateurism of the previous half century and did not adjust to political changes in the world game. Canada was very slow to adopt changes to the system, and was, in fact, led from its narrow perspective by the success - the domination - of the US and Australia.

In 1964, the South African tournament on the world tour became instantly well known and well attended when it offered prize money. It was a glimpse of the future. The tournament featured box seats as well as stands for the spectators, locker rooms for the players, sponsors, financial enticements for the top players, and the chance to legally win money. Word spread quickly through the ranks of players. The tournament chairmen in Canada realized that the tournaments like the Canadian championships would have to change or become minor, second class events. At this same time, many more of the top amateur players were joining the new professional circuits. In the past only a couple of the top players signed on to the small pro tour each year but suddenly whole circuits were being organized. In 1965, the calibre of professional tennis relative to amateur tennis also became more obvious when some of the professional matches were televised. Re-organization was looking like a certainty for Canada - and the rest of the world.

One of the ILTF responses to the changes in tennis was to create the Federation Cup, a women's national team tournament similar to Davis Cup. The women's draw at the Canadian Open still drew a relatively weak field. The top two Canadians, Benita Senn of Toronto and Faye Urban of Windsor usually battled the American challengers with mixed results. The Montreal-born Mike Belkin was the top male of the mid 1960s. He won the US Junior Orange Bowl and went on to become among the very finest claycourt competitors of the decade. In 1968, he reached the semi-finals of Canadian international.

However, the last amateur tournament was in 1967. It drew three top world class players who dominated the event. Later that year Wimbledon announced they would accept both amateurs and professionals into their draw the following year. Canada was dragged into the modern tennis era.

1967 to Present (Open Tennis)

Since 1968, the annual Canadian championships have been divided into open and closed competitions. The closed events are for Canadian citizens only and determine the national champions. Since 1981, the commercially sponsored open events have been held in Toronto and Montreal, with the men's and women's events alternating sites. The goal of these tournaments is to attract the best quality of tennis possible. To do so, the Canadian Open had to undergo a transformation to keep it in step with the international tennis circuit.

While Canada could not pretend to compete with the quality and prestige of the Grand Slam events, it could not ignore the international changes either. Although it was not prepared for it, Canada was drawn into the Open era. The CLTA had no operating budget, no fixed tournament site, no fixed administrative site, and no full time employees. There were questions about whether Canada would be able to host a major tournament on the international circuit. However, Canada had a strong record of hosting well-organized events that had some dedicated followers among the professional players. The CLTA managed to persuade the ILTF to sanction the Canadian Open and secured a time slot just prior to the US Open. The CLTA executive recruited two Toronto clubs to host the site on a rotating basis and persuaded one of the professional tours to send its players to the tournament.

Although the first Open only offered $2000 in prize money, it also offered the participants free billeting, transportation, and other extras. Some of the players commented that they had come to help the event but would not return the next year without improved financial compensation. This spurred the organizers to seek corporate sponsorship so that the second Open offered prize money of $22,000, equal to any of the North American tournaments. The money ensured that the stars would be there and having the stars ensured that the fans would come to watch. The tournament was extremely successful. The sponsor, Rothmans, increased the prize money for the next season to $70,000. The 1971 Open was once again a very successful, first class event in a small local facility. The resulting site problems were eased somewhat in 1972 by the WCT boycott of ILTF sanctioned events, leaving the Canadian tournament with fewer well known male pros, and drawing slightly smaller crowds.

The WCT and ILTF dispute continued and increased in 1973 when Wimbledon was boycotted. The problem was resolved in time for the Canadian Open to draw a top field again. Rothmans raised the sponsorship to $100,000, and then to $130,000 the next year, keeping it near the top events on the circuit. Once again, the tournament attracted a top level draw which attracted a large crowd.

In spite of the fact that the annual event was extremely successful each year, it was painfully obvious that the local clubs could not handle the demands of the players, spectators, community, and club members. The popularity of the tournament had become a "nuisance". The problems of running a major tournament in a local club were too difficult to handle. A different solution was needed.

In 1975, a record number of advanced tickets were sold, and record breaking crowds watched the matches. However, the tournament was marred by last minute drop outs of name players and some major upsets early in the draw. Even the final was blemished when Ilie Nastase, the Romanian star, suddenly lost interest in playing and "gave away" the last two sets before a large audience and the first Open national television audience.

That winter, the CLTA committee managed to persuade the provincial associations, the various levels of government, and banks that a permanent site was important, even necessary, for the success of the tournament. After five months of hectic construction at York University, the venue was rushed into service for the 1976 tournament. The still incomplete site served well. For a few years, complaints were made about the weather, but the potential was obvious. The top players came to the event though not all at once. The tennis was good but not great. In 1978, the tournament lost its sponsor. Rothmans had taken the event funding from $2,000 in 1969 to $210,000 in 1978, but the Canadian Lawn Tennis Association now had to make a fresh start. This time, however, it had a head start, working with a new site that was waiting to have its potential filled.

Canada was finally ready to make tennis big business. To go along with the venue, they secured a new sponsor, Player's (Imperial Tobacco), which added to the prize money and further upgraded the facility to match the newly resurfaced US Open courts. To help ensure success, Canada also hired a full time staff member, John Beddington, to oversee the event. The CLTA timing was perfect this time. In the late seventies, tennis was booming. Large numbers of people became involved in the sport in Canada - playing, promoting, administrating and volunteering. Corporations saw the tennis image as a new promotional opportunity and spent their advertising dollars on the sport. Television found that people were interested in seeing more that just the Grand Slam finals and tennis became a regular occurrence on TV. Networks paid for the rights to broadcast and this revenue added to the money that tournament organizers had at their disposal. Endorsement contracts for the well known stars added to the prize money made some tennis players among the best paid athletes in the world. Olympic officials began to wonder why the most popular individual sport in the world was not included in their event. Tennis officials saw that inclusion could mean greater recognition (and therefore financial support) from their governments.

In 1978, the Canadian Open organizers asked a professional management group (that controlled many of the top players) for assistance. The company took Tennis Canada on as a client and in 1979, three quarters of the top twenty five men in the world showed up at the National Tennis Centre for the Open. A record breaking fifty thousand fans followed. Although the women's field was not as strong, the Open's reputation continued to grow. The players spread the word about how well they were treated. The fans were impressed with the quality of entertainment and kept supporting the event in ever growing numbers. The organizers made money. The international administration recognized the event as being very high quality.

Although the events continued to have its ups and downs with top players defaulting or being knocked out of the draw in the early rounds, the field was strong enough that it did not rely on any individual to provide appeal. New records for attendance and finance were set again the next year (1980).

The tournament felt stable enough to follow the wishes of the Women's Tennis Association (WTA) and establish a separate site for the women. Toronto and Montreal agreed to have the men's and women's tournaments alternated between the two cities. In Montreal, Jarry Park, former home of the Expos, was renovated for tennis.

The WTA responded to the divided championship by making certain that the 1981 field was strong, with nineteen of the top twenty players entering. The media coverage increased and reports were full of superlatives. The subsequent women's tournaments continued to draw strong fields and attendance continued to grow. Only the weather prevented the events from being completely successful.

By 1985, both the Open tournaments - Player's International and Player's Challenge - were almost household names in Canada. Marshall Happer III, administrator of the Men's Tennis Council, saw the 1985 Open and declared that it was the best organized tournament on the tour. Phillipe Chatrier, the International Tennis Federation president, marvelled at the progress made since he had been at the championships in 1980.

The year 1985 also saw the National Tennis Centre officially become the year round headquarters of Tennis Canada. It would serve as focal point for tennis in Canada and also act as a training facility for the elite Canadian athletes, especially the young ones, providing an option to foreign tennis schools and US colleges.

The Canadian Lawn Tennis Association had proved resilient and resourceful in running the international events but the success of the tournaments was out of proportion with the very limited success that Canada had in developing its own talent for play on the international tournament circuit or national team play. The CLTA had been unable to organize and administrate a comprehensive development program. Most of the Canadian talent had succeeded in spite of the association, not because of it. Canada only claimed the talent when it rose to the top. Most of the CLTA focus had been on the elite players. The Canadian junior international tournament began in 1918 with girls' events added in 1946. The Canadian national junior championships began in 1953 and but did not come into full stride until the 1960s. Canada began indoor junior championships in 1985.

The success of the Open tournaments has allowed Tennis Canada to expand from two paid employees in 1979 to 30 full time paid staff in 1985. Ninety per cent of the funding for Tennis Canada programs comes from the Events division, primarily the Open tournaments. Some of the employees organize and direct tennis development programs. In the 1980s, the main emphasis was on regional training centres in a few key locations across the country, and on national teams to represent the country in international competition. The regional training centres faced some insurmountable problems such as distance and administration, causing a change of tactic. Tennis Canada in the late 1980s chose to work more with established clubs. The clubs were already in the players' neighbourhoods and generally had proven management. The Tennis Canada goal has been to improve coaching and the access to improvement, increase the number of entry level participants, and provide programs for those interested in developing their game at any level. This, of course, includes year round programs for elite junior athletes because the main focus remains on building national teams capable of winning international competitions.

Whether it was due to the initiatives of Tennis Canada or not is difficult to determine, but in the 1980s some native Canadians began having some success at the Opens and in other international events. Martyn Kendrick who wrote Advantage Canada, (1990) a history of the international tennis tournament in Canada, claims that "eighty percent of the most important achievements by Canadians in international tennis have occurred only in the last twenty years (p. 179)." There are notable exceptions such as the Davis Cup debut in 1913, the wins of Lorne Main and Brendan Macken in 1950s and the clay court success of Mike Belkin in the 1960s. However, it was the Eighties when Canadians made the most progress.

In 1981, Glenn Michibata was the only Canadian touring pro and one of less than ten listed on the international computer. Those numbers had doubled by 1985 and continued to grow after that. Michibata and Martin Wostenholme both reached the third round of the Canadian Open in 1982, the best since Belkin in 1969. In 1986, Michibata climbed into the top fifty players in the world and also won an international event. Andrew Sznajder reached the third round of the Open in 1987 and became the first Canadian to reach the quarterfinals of the Open in 1989. That year, he reached number forty six in the world computer rankings.

Michibata teamed with Grant Connell in doubles to record some outstanding international success, including reaching Grand Slam finals (the first all-Canadian team to do so) and finding a regular spot in the top ten which eventually included a brief stay in the number one doubles position in the world. After the team split and found new partners, Connell once again reached number one in the world.

In 1990, the Davis Cup team helped Tennis Canada celebrate its one hundredth anniversary by qualifying for the World Group in Davis Cup for the first time. Although they managed to hold onto the coveted position that year, they have since fallen back to a lower grouping, waiting for the next generation to win their way back to the top level.

The possibility for advancement is real. In Florida in December 1989, Toronto's Daniel Nestor and Robert Janecek teamed with Sebastien Lareau of Boucherville, Quebec, and Sebastien Leblanc of St-Bruno, Que. to bring home the Sunshine Cup, regarded as the junior equivalent of the Davis Cup, by defeating such leading tennis nations as Sweden and West Germany. It was the first time Canada had won an international team competition in something other than a senior event. In 1990, the Sunshine Cup team reached the finals before finishing as runner-up to the Soviet Union. After Canadian juniors won some international junior events that year including a couple of Junior Grand Slam doubles titles, Nestor and Leblanc finished in the top ten world junior rankings, the first Canadian boys to do so since Michibata and Wostenholme. This group of junior boys was followed closely by Greg Rusedski who won the Wimbledon junior doubles in 1991 and has since started on a promising professional career.

Canada has also done exceptionally well in the men's senior categories recently. Lorne Main and Ken Sinclair have dominated their age groups. They combined to win the Austria Cup (over fifty-five years) in 1987, 1988, 1989, and again in 1990 before winning the Von Cramm Cup (over sixty years) in 1992. Both players have also won various international tournament singles and doubles titles. Sinclair is also known as one of the visionaries behind moving the Canadian Open tennis championships to the National Tennis Centre at York University, and for being a Tournament Chairman at the new venue. Winning both the Austria Cup and Sunshine Cup in 1989 stands out as among the all-time most important accomplishment's in Canada's tennis history.

In the last twenty years, the Canadian women, too, have had some remarkable achievements on the international tour. The 1980s ushered in Carling Bassett (Seguso), who climbed as high as number eight in the world of women's tennis in 1985. Bassett reached the semifinal of the US Open, was a Tennis magazine Rookie of the Year, and was a Canadian Press Female Athlete of the Year twice. Bassett was followed by Helen Kelesi, the 1989 and 1990 Canadian Press Female Athlete of the Year who won four international events and climbed as high as number thirteen in the world rankings.

Kelesi and Bassett Seguso were at the centre of one of the most important events in the history of Canadian tennis. Largely due to the country's reputation as a tournament host, Tennis Canada was granted the 1987 Federation Cup tennis championships hosted at the Hollyburn Country Club in Vancouver. Canada reached the quarterfinals, earning Canada three main draw positions in the 1988 Olympics in Seoul, Korea, and setting a Federation Cup attendance record of sixty-one thousand for one week.

In addition to their success in singles, Canada also had one of the world's top female doubles players. Jill Hetherington captured two gold medals at the 1983 World University Games in Edmonton, winning women's doubles with Karen Dewis and mixed doubles with Bill Jenkins. In 1986, she reached the Wimbledon semifinals, and in 1988 and 1989 was in back-to-back Grand Slam finals at the US Open and Australian Open. Several times she has finished in the top ten world doubles rankings and even reached number one in 1989.

The growth and development of the Canadian championships in the Open era has provided the basis for most of the Canadian focus on international tennis. Although the Canadian Opens have not been won by Canadians they continue to be very valuable in the Canadian tennis scene. Each year they allow the country's top players the opportunity to test their game against the best in the world and they allow the local fans to see top international tennis. The events help to generate enthusiasm for the sport across the country.

Although, by international standards, the tournaments can not compare with the Grand Slams, they fall into a category just below them. The calibre has been consistently good and the prize money continues to grow. Although the facilities and the weather are sometimes questioned, the organization of the events is considered excellent. Because the organizing committee has done its best to make the every player feel special at the Canadian events and the tournaments have developed a loyal following. In 1989, the Players Ltd. became a Festival of Tennis and included seniors play by bringing back names from past for five days before the regular seven days of tournament.

The Open era has seen other far reaching changes in Canadian tennis, too. The main advance has been the provision of more public courts. Tennis is now accessible by all socio-economic groups. Local recreation groups have became involved. Teaching of tennis in schools and universities became more widespread. Commercial sponsorships have helped out regional and provincial events, as well as individuals. For serious tennis players tennis has become a year round sport depending on indoor facilities which can now be found in most urban centres across the country. Training centres, schools and camps for players of all abilities have become common. Provincial associations have hired directors, coaches and administrators to help develop talent within the provinces. Even though the boom of the late sixties and early seventies has died, in 1985 it was estimated that over two million people play tennis in Canada, making it the third most popular sport activity after swimming and ice hockey.

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APPENDIX C

UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA VARSITY TENNIS RESULTS

Appendix C
University of Alberta Varsity Tennis Results

MS=mens singles LS=ladies singles
MD=mens doubles LD=ladies doubles XD=mixed doubles

University of Alberta Varsity Champions

1921
MS - Bob Baker
LS - Dorothy Whiteman
XD - Roy Page and Geraldine Duclos

1922
MS - Don Allen
LS - Jean Folkins
XD - Bob Baker and Polly Dixon

1923
MS - Bob Baker
LS - Francis Alexander
XD - R.P. Alexander and Francis Alexander

1924
cancelled due to poor weather

1925
MS - Guy Lyle
LD - Marjorie Race
XD - cancelled due to poor weather

1926

1927
MS - Ted Manning
LD - K. Howes
MD - Ian Macdonald and Len Gardiner
XD - Jack Matheson and F. Frost

1928
MS - Hugh Morton
LS - Vada McMahan
MS - Bill Montgomery and John Giffen
XD - Hal Gaetz and Vada McMahan

1929
1930
LS - Helen Mahaffy
others - cancelled due to poor weather

1931
MS - Mert Keel
LS - Helen Mahaffy
MD - Mert Keel and Fred Davies
LD - Helen Mahaffy and Priscilla Hammond
XD - Jack Badner and Kay Nash

1932
SC - Gordon Deel and Priscilla Hammond
others - cancelled due to poor weather

1933
MS - George McFadzean
LS - Kathleen Swallow
MD - George McFadzean and Guy Morton
LD - not completed
XD - Bob and Maxine Darrah

1934
MS - Bill Stark
LS - Barbara Jarman
MD - Bob Darrah and Bob Collier
LD - Barbara Jarman and Kay Swallow
XD - Dick Hurlburt and Barbara Jarman

1935

1936
cancelled due to poor weather

1937
LS - Maxine Thorburn
others - cancelled due to poor weather

1938
MS - Bruce Sangster
LS - Maxine Thorburn

1939
cancelled due to poor weather

1940
cancelled due to poor weather

1941
1942
1943
MS - John McInnis
MD - Tom Carscadden and Dick Grunert

1944
MS - Ed. Hall
LS - Isobel Hooper
MD - Ed. and Howard Hall
LD - Isobel Hooper and Dorothy Soby

1945 (summer)
MS - Jimmy Hume
MS - Davis and Blackadar
XD - Hartling and Huxley

1945
MS - Clare Ames
LS - Dorothy Soby

1946 (summer)
MS - Clare Ames
LS - Marion Staples
LD - Doris Sheppard and Bessie McAvoy

1946
MS - Gordon McLaws
LS - Jean Martyn

1947
MS - John Stott
LS - Jean McLaws

1948
MS - Jim Hume
LS - Nancy Collinge

APPENDIX D

UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA INTERVARSITY TENNIS TEAMS

Appendix D
University of Alberta Intervarsity Tennis Teams

1924
Mort. Watts
Ken Rogers
Margorie Race
Francis Alexander

winner - Saskatchewan

1925
Guy Lyle
Tommy Cross
Kathleen Howes
Margorie Race

winner - Saskatchewan

1926
Mr. Gerrie
Guy Lyle
Kathleen Howes
Francis Alexander
winner - British Columbia

1927
Dave Nicol
Len Gardiner
Kathleen Howes
D. White

winner - Saskatchewan

1928
no competition

1929
no competition

1930
Bill Montgomery
Jim Cairns
Helen Mahaffy
Dorothy Brown
winner - Saskatchewan

1931
Mert Keel
Fred Davies
Helen Mahaffey
Priscilla Hammond

winner - Alberta

1932
Mert Keel
Gordon Keel
Priscilla Hammond
Dorothy Brown

winner - Alberta

1933
no competition

1934
Bill Stark
Tom Bellany
Dick Hurlburt
Barbara Jarman
Kay Swallow

winner - Alberta

1935
George McFadzean
Bill Stark
Amy Cogswell
Marg Hutchinson

winner - Alberta

1936
Tom Forhan
Bill Stark
Barbara Jarman
Helen Aikenhead

winner - Alberta

1937
Sam Costigan
Bill Stark

Maxine Thorburn
Jean Cogswell

winner - Alberta

1938
Bruce Sangster
George Murray
Eileen Rushworth
Maxine Thorburn

winner - Alberta

1939
Bill Stark
Bruce Sangster
Danny Costigan
Margaret Willox
Nora Mcleod

winner - Saskatchewan

1940
no competition

1941
no competition

1942
no competition

1943
no competition

1944
no competition

1945
Clare Ames
Paul Brouin
Helen Lilly
Dorothy Soby

winners - Manitoba and Saskatchewan

1946
Gordon McLaws
Johnny Stott
Jean Martyn
Helen Lilly

winner - Saskatchewan

1947
Johnny Stott
Gordon McLaws
Jean McLaws
Helen Lilly

winner - Alberta

1948

1949

1950
Frank Oliver
Sterling Haynes
Nancy Collinge
Evelyn Linke

winner - Saskatchewan

1951

1952
Dave Kinlock
Al Lyons
Nick Romalo
Ruth Eaves
Muriel Clapp
Ev Linke

winner - Alberta

1953
Don MacIntosh
John Higgins
Hugh Edgar
Donna Kinloch
Barbara Shortreed
Ruth Eaves

winner - Alberta

1954
John Higgins

Harry Fyerman
Ron Ghitter
Connie Horeak
Barb Shortreed
Donna Kinloch

winner - Alberta

1955
Ron Ghitter
Don Jackson
John Higgins
Barb Shortreed
Eileen Nicol
Connie Horeak

winner - Saskatchewan

1956
Ron Ghitter
Hugh Edgar
Dale Jackson
Judy Walls
Marg Whelihan
Eileen Nicol

winner - Saskatchewan

1957
Ron Ghitter
Dale Jackson
Miss Dunnigan
Judy Walls
Marg Shandro

no competition

1958
Ron Ghitter
Quayum Shaikh
Anton Melnyk
Dale Jackson
Al Alcorn
Pat Shandro
Judy Wood
Marg Shandro

winner - British Columbia

1959

1960
Lance Richard
Lyall McCurdy
Cam Dalgliesh
Pat Shandro
Linda Clute
Heather McPherson

winner - Alberta

1961
Lyall McCurdy
Lance Richard
Wes Alexander
Diane Hollingworth
Pat Shandro
Linda Clute

winner - Saskatchewan

1962
Lyall McCurdy
Lance Richard
Cam Dalgliesh
Heather McPherson
Miss Leiper
Linda Clute
Audrey King

Men placed first
and ladies placed third
- combined for first place

1963
Cam Dalgleish
Lyle McCurdy
Francis Van Hestern
Dianne Farris
Patricia Shandro
Heather McPherson

1964
Cam Dalgleish
Lance Richard
Francis Van Hestern
Heather McPherson

1965
winner - Alberta

1966
Gary (sic. Greg?) Harris
Geoff Harris
Wes Alexander
Wendy Clute

1967
Wes Alexander
Peter Burwash
Greg Harris
Maureen Hamill

1968

APPENDIX E

UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA TENNIS CENTRE
UNIVERSITY STUDENTS TENNIS TEAM

Appendix E

University of Alberta Tennis Centre
University Students Tennis Team

1987-88
Alan Becken
Chuck Blackburn
Kuen Cheung
David Gates
Riyaz Karimjee
Darryl Mekechuk
Sean Saunders
Ted Yoo

1988-89
Alan Becken
Chuck Blackburn
John Cheng
Kuen Cheung
David Gates
Sean Saunders
Derri Thomas
Frank Walls

1989-90
John Cheng
Kuen Cheung
Jon Chmilar
David Gates
Brent Hite
Tony Morris
Ross Swanson
Derri Thomas

1990-91 Men
Carlos Basualdo
Sanjeev Bhardwaj
John Cheng
Kuen Cheung
Jon Chmilar
Mayooran Selvarajah
Ross Swanson
Derri Thomas

Women
Marianne Edwards
Krista Frohlich
Blanka Jelen
Sue Tucker
Jennifer Twiss

1991-92 Men

Rob Bell
Sanjeev Bhardwaj
Court Carruthers
John Cheng
Jon Chmilar
Tim Hopper
Derri Thomas
Binh Troung

Women

Marianne Edwards
Krista Frohlich
Blanka Jelen
Pauline Riesel
Sue Tucker
Jen Twiss

1992-93 Men

Sanjeev Bhardwaj
Frank Braat
John Cheng
Jon Chmilar
Alex Christ
Tim Hopper
Luke Horcica
Martin Skoda
Ross Swanson

Women

Syrell Bell
Krista Frohlich
Jennifer Lee
Renuca Modi
Sue Tucker
Jennifer Twiss
Nicole Wright

1993-94 Men

Sanjeev Bhardwaj
Jon Chmilar
Paul Dmytruk
Scott Farquhar
Tim Hopper
Luke Horcica
Corey Stewart
Ross Swanson

Women

Ayn Becze
Syrell Bell
Renuca Modi
Pauline Riesel
Carolina Slowikowska
Ellen Toth
Sue Tucker
Nicole Wright